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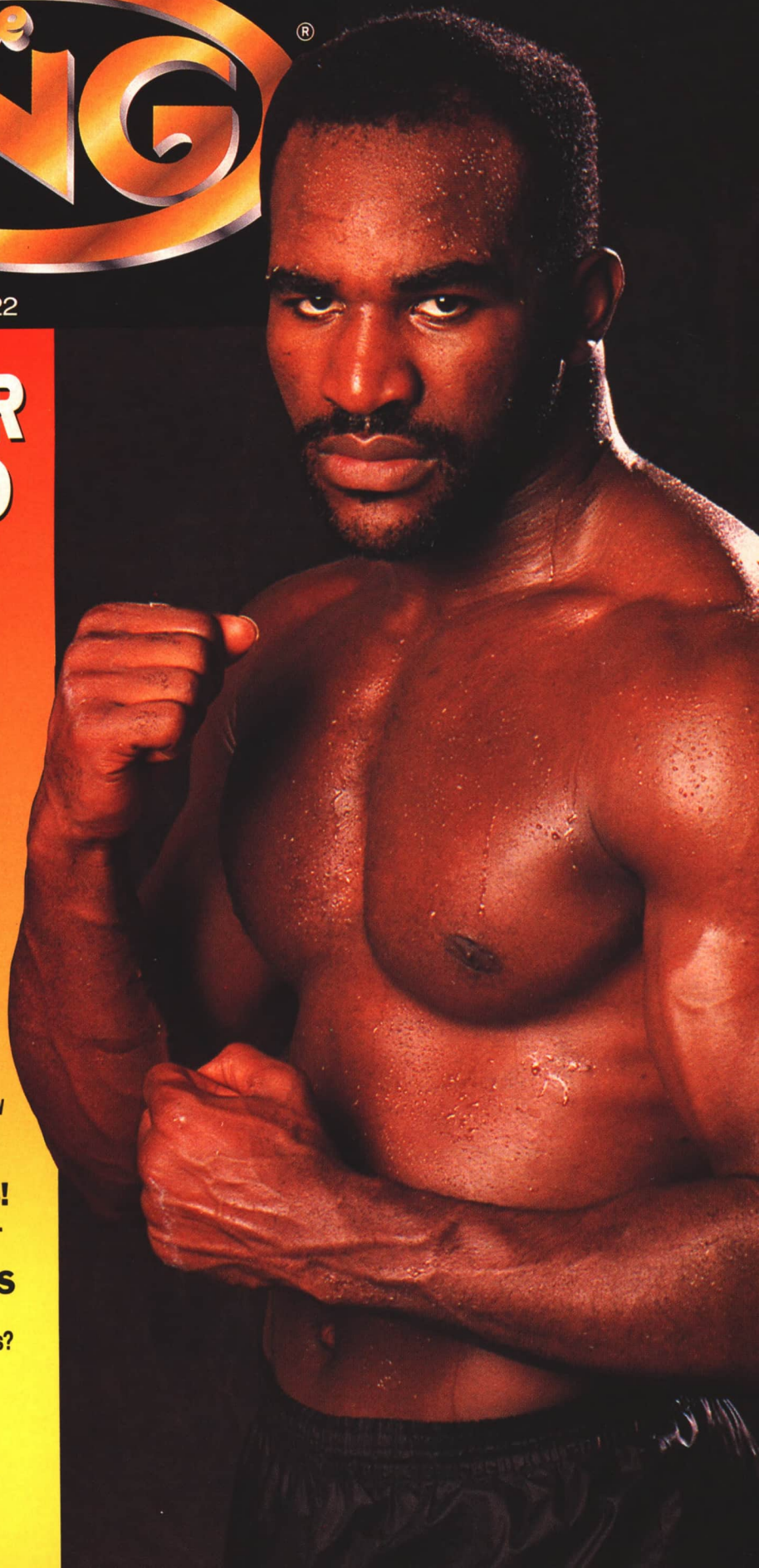

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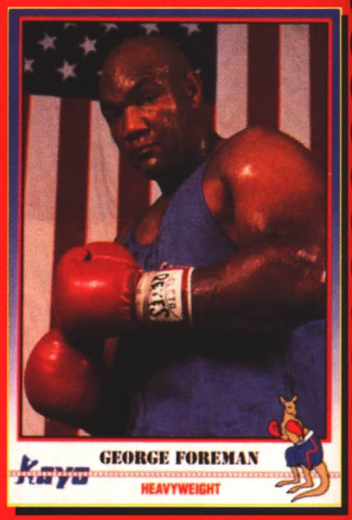

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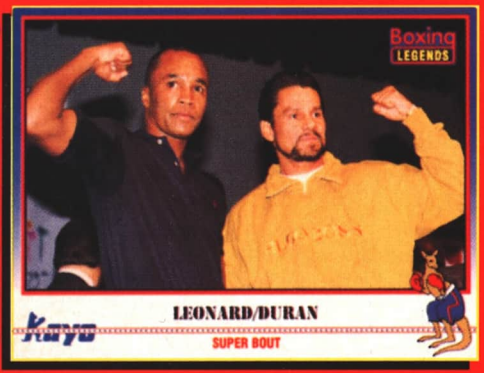

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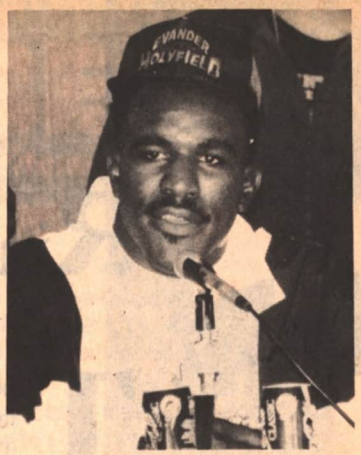

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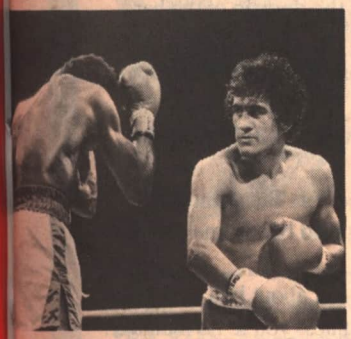

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Cover Photo By Marc Morrison
Centerfold By Stanley Weston

© Stanley Weston, 1957

Ringside

There are boxing stars, and then there are *super*stars. The difference makes all the difference. As long as there are outstanding champions, there will always be stars. But it's the champions whose appeal transcends the ring that qualify as superstars. Like Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson, and Jack Dempsey before them. Like Muhammad Ali, and then Sugar Ray Leonard. Today? Try making a list. After writing Mike Tyson and George Foreman, you'll have a lot of pencil left.

As we dive deeper into the '90s, boxing is desperate for an additional superstar or two. What exactly are the qualifications? A fighter has to be right for his time. And outside the ring, he must be good or bad, or an unpredictable mix of the two, but never indifferent. Here, then, is a handicapper's analysis of today's candidates.

Julio Cesar Chavez: He's no Duran, and I don't mean as a fighter. Great smile. Great record. But where the inability to communicate in English added to the aura surrounding Duran, it has hurt Chavez. Even with a push from HBO, he hasn't made it. There isn't much time left.

Thomas Hearns: A superstar? Only when there's one in the opposite corner. The most exciting fighter of the '80s has never been able to carry a fight by himself. As a result, he's never been able to carry boxing.

Tommy Morrison: Ouch!

Terry Norris: Way too low-key for the spotlight. The Guy Who Knocked Out Sugar Ray will never be anything more.

Riddick Bowe: Why not? He's physically imposing; he's got a great sense of humor, an engaging personality, and a flair for the dramatic; he's talented. Oh, and by the way, did I mention that he's a heavyweight? That's practically a prerequisite. But he'll have to win the title first.

Michael Carbajal: It's remarkable how far he's come. But there's no one for him to fight. The lighter weight classes seem doomed to remain the domain of the hard-core fans. And only the hard-core fans.

Buddy McGirt: A win over Chavez would bring him close, but he doesn't inspire enough emotion.

Michael Moorer: Not at 231 pounds. What's Manny Steward been feeding him, pasta with chocolate sauce?

Evander Holyfield: Class act. Exciting fighter. Quality person. But without a Tyson to play off, he's slow dancing by himself. (But getting paid handsomely to do so.)

James Toney: A seriously hot potato. We're just finding out about him, and I like what I see. He seems to have Tyson's anger. That's a plus, unless you're his manager. Betcha *People* does a story on him soon.

Pernell Whitaker & Meldrick Taylor: Perfect examples of why talent alone isn't sufficient. From the class of '84, Mark Breland and Tyrell Biggs had the superstar potential. But then they kept getting knocked out.

Oscar de la Hoya: Watch him on NBC at the 1988 Olympic Games. By the time he steps off the gold medal podium, you'll know whether he's got it.

Jeff Fenech: This was the guy, but for a variety of reasons, he's remained a secret. A knockout of Whitaker would be his only chance, but at this point, and at that weight, that's asking too much.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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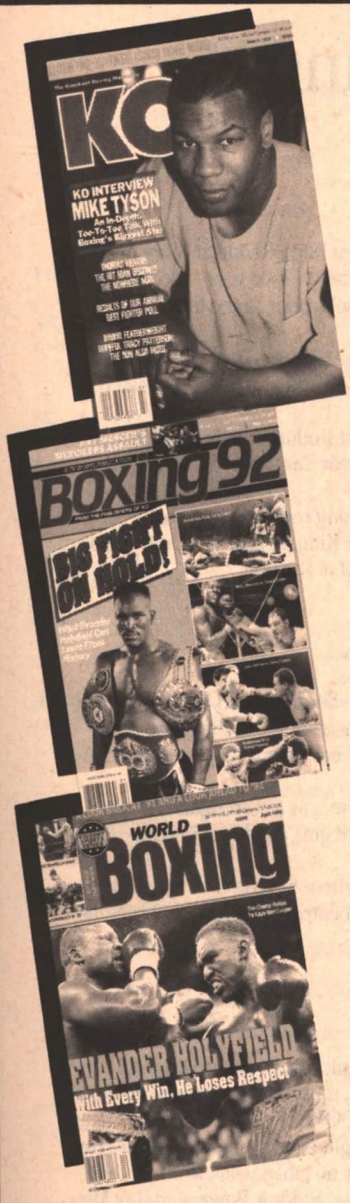

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Come Out Writing

A MANAGER'S RESPONSE

In your annual "State Of The Game" issue (January 1992), you listed Rodney Moore as boxing's most protected junior welterweight. I am Moore's manager. Two years ago, we had a contract to fight Livingstone Bramble, who pulled out three weeks prior to the fight. It was not rescheduled.

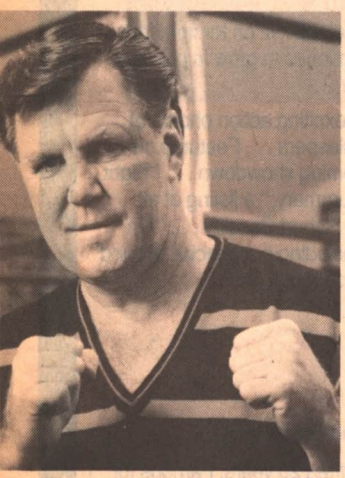
One year ago, we had a verbal agreement to fight Julio Cesar Chavez. Twenty-four hours later, Chavez changed his mind, saying Rodney moved too much and had too complicated a style.

We've offered Pernell Whitaker a fight, but Whitaker thought Rodney's style too difficult.

Moore was a mandatory challenger for WBO champion Hector Camacho, but the WBO dropped Rodney in the ratings.

Rodney has been waiting patiently for a shot. He's been fighting regularly and hasn't ducked anyone. Let's stop protecting him. Here's a message for King, Arum, and Duva: Rodney is tired of waiting on the outside. It's time to give him a shot at the title.

FRED JENKINS
Philadelphia, PA



Quarry: Unfairly criticized

A QUARRY FAN

Thanks for Robert Cassidy's article, "Jerry Quarry: Born Too Soon . . . And With A Lifetime To Think About It" (January 1992). I agree that if Quarry had been in his prime a few years later, he would have won the heavyweight title. He also would easily have captured the cruiserweight title.

Criticism of Quarry has always been unfair and unjustified. He was a damn good heavyweight in an era of great heavyweights. Win or lose, he brought guts and heart into the ring with him. There are few like him today.

Jerry should get back behind the microphone and pick up where he left off as a boxing commentator. In the mid- and late-'70s, he was the best I ever heard. C'mon, Jerry, forget the past and start thinking about the future.

JAKE SANTANA
Easthamton, MA

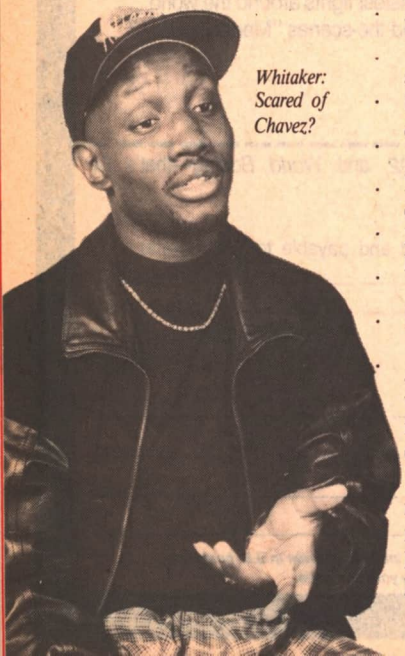
HOLYFIELD & TYSON

Anybody, and I mean *anybody*, who had the audacity to think that Evander Holyfield would have beaten Mike Tyson, had they met on November 8, must have felt pretty stupid after seeing how Holyfield was rocked by Bert Cooper. BERT COOPER!

Granted, Cooper can hit hard, but Holyfield is the heavyweight champion of the world. He's supposed to be five levels above a guy like Cooper. Cooper has no jab, a weak stomach, and had previously been beaten by, among others, George Foreman, Riddick Bowe, and Ray Mercer. And he still hurt Holyfield!

For all his high-tech crap, Holyfield is nothing more than a blown-up cruiserweight with a light heavyweight punch. Tyson would have easily finished the job that Cooper started, inside of three rounds.

BRIAN CERAOLO
River Edge, NJ



Whitaker: Scared of Chavez?

IS "SWEET PEA" SCARED?

In "A Warning To Boxing: Don't Waste Julio Cesar Chavez' Good Years" (January 1992), Joseph C. Tintle states that Pernell Whitaker insists there's no one he'd rather fight than Chavez. That's a crock, and you know it. If Whitaker really wanted the fight, all he'd have to do is issue an ultimatum to the Duvas. The truth of the matter is that Whitaker is scared to death of Chavez.

The Whitaker braintrust will *never* let their fragile champion enter the ring against the magnificent Mexican. The battered features of Meldrick Taylor after his war with Chavez remain a haunting memory.

HERB LAMBECK
Las Vegas, NV

April 1992 Volume 71, No. 4

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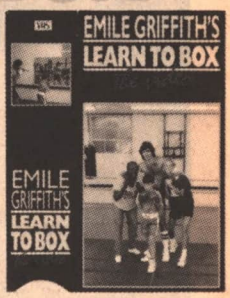

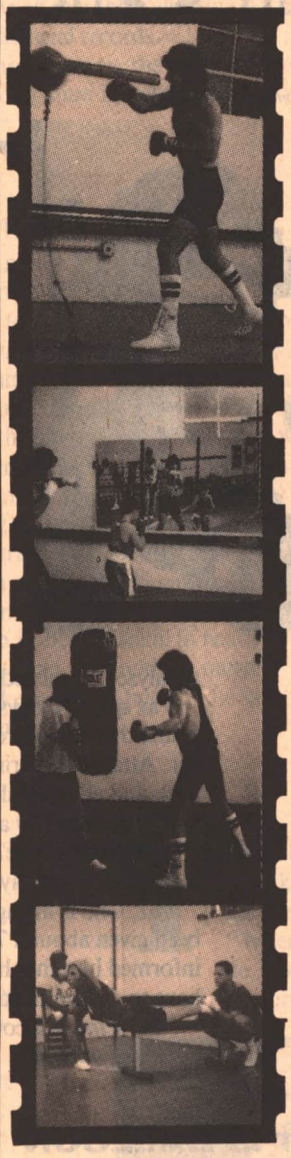

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Round One

Paz: A comeback promise

THE DEVIL'S HALO

On the morning of November 12, WBA junior middleweight champion Vinny Pazienza received a phone call from a local reporter asking for a reaction to the story that Magic Johnson had tested positive for the AIDS virus.

Pazienza told him that people don't appreciate life until something happens. A few hours later, something happened to him.

Returning from a gym workout, Paz was a passenger in a Chevy Camaro driven by his friend Kurt Reader. The car crashed on U.S. 1 in Warwick, Rhode Island, and Paz suffered two cracked vertebrae and a dislocated spine. He was not wearing a seatbelt. Reader suffered only minor injuries.

"If one of the vertebra had touched the spinal cord," he told *The Ring,* "I would've been paralyzed. It missed by a hair. I count my blessings."

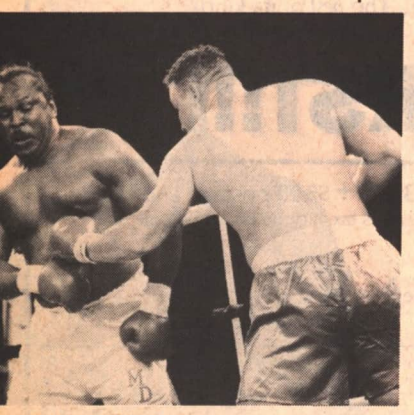
Paz spent 10 days in the hospital and was fitted with a "halo," a metal frame that consists of four pins drilled into his skull above each eye and ear. Attached is a ring that surrounds his head. The halo immobilizes Paz' neck and allows dislocated bones to properly realign. In February, the halo will be replaced by a more conventional neck brace.

"Uncomfortable? That's putting it mildly," he said. "The hardest part is sleeping. I just lay on my back and can't move."

Paz, who is lifting light weights and riding a stationary bicycle, says he's been given about a 75 percent chance of resuming his career. The WBA has informed him that he'll be given a year to recover, at which point he'll have to defend the crown within six months.

"Now *this* is a comeback," he said.

—Steve Farhood



Dokes: A $500 fighter

IT IS BALLOON

How far can a former world champion fall? On the Buddy McGirt-Simon Brown undercard in Las Vegas, Michael Dokes scaled 277 for his standby eight-rounder vs. John Morton. Dokes, who won on points, was paid only $500.

"I can't tell you why," *Newsday* quoted an associate of promoter Don King, "but he needed the money real bad. He was willing to take anything."

Chuck Minker, the executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, told *The Ring* that the 33-year-old Dokes actually scaled 280, but three pounds were deducted because the fighter was wearing boots. (It was also reported that Dokes was wearing ankle weights. Minker, who weighed Dokes, could not confirm it, but he did say that after stepping off the scale, Dokes said to him, "Let me take off the weights.")

The former WBA heavyweight champion was apparently embarrassed by his paunch. Minker said that before the weigh-in, Dokes, who hadn't fought in 19 months, asked that his weight be announced as 235. If he were concerned with saving face, perhaps he should have also asked that his purse be announced as $5,000.

—Steve Farhood

THE HOUSE OF KICKBACKS?

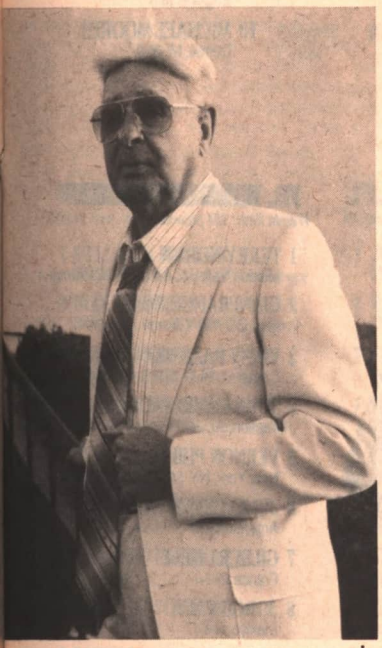
According to sources quoted in an investigative article by *Los Angeles Times* boxing writer Earl Gustkey, several handlers have been coerced into kicking back expense money, paid by the Great Western Forum, to the Forum's assistant matchmaker, Merlin Petit.

"The expense checks, made out to managers or trainers, are intended to cover boxers' travel expenses," wrote Gustkey. "Instead, in many cases, the money has been given to Petit" to ensure activity on the Forum's undercards.

In a separate story, Gustkey reported that the California Athletic Commission is planning an audit of the Forum's financial records.

Petit, 69, denied the charges. John Beyrooty, the Forum's boxing publicist, told *The Ring* that until an in-house investigation is complete, the Forum would have no comment.

Henry: Nobody's victim



PICKIN' ON A PATSY

The two men who attacked 78-year-old Michael Henry in a Brockton, Massachusetts, highway rest area several weeks ago had no idea who they were messing with. From 1930 to 1943, Henry fought 126 pro bouts as welterweight Patsy Downey. Apparently, he still has some fight left; he challenged his knife-wielding assailants, who were attempting to rob him in broad daylight.

"They rushed me, and it was a big mistake," said Henry. "I threw a left hook, got one in the chin, and then followed with a big one to the heart. The guy I hit fell, and his friend had to scramble to help him up. I could see blood, and I knew it was coming from his face."

The thug downed by Henry, a 6'2", 210-pound man in his 20s, labeled his elderly target as "crazy" and retreated with his partner to their car. They fled the rest area in a screech of wheels and narrowly missed hitting another man who was running toward Henry to help.

A visit to Tobey Hospital in nearby Wareham saw Henry treated for a sore and bruised left hand, and nothing more.

"I feel like a million bucks," he said. "Those guys got what they deserved."

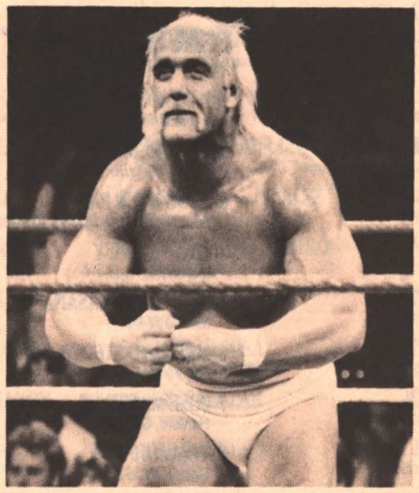
—David Paling

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Luis Sarria, Muhammad Ali's longtime masseur, and conditioner to all 12 of Angelo Dundee's world champions, died in Miami at age 82. He was penniless. His burial expenses were paid by Dundee and Dr. Ferdie Pacheco . . . Former middleweight contender "Dangerous" Don Lee, 36, was arrested in New York City for driving a car with stolen license plates, according to police . . . In Tokyo, 20-year-old Japanese featherweight Minoru Katsumata died one day after being stopped in the 10th round by countryman Takao Murata. A spokesman for the Japanese Boxing Commission said that Katsumata lost consciousness while being carried by stretcher to his dressing room . . . Fighter-trainer divorces: Simon Brown and Emile Griffith, and Virgil Hill and Freddie Roach . . . Richard DeCuir, 38, assistant executive officer of the California Board of Dental Examiners for seven years, was named executive officer of the California Athletic Commission.

THE PUNCHLINE

Mike Tyson's plans for the New Year: "When I regain the title, I want to fight Hulk Hogan. I'm serious." ■



Hogan: Ready for Tyson?

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended December 18, 1991

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *26-0 (World Champ)*

2 MIKE TYSON
Catskill, NY *41-1*

3 RIDDICK BOWE
Brooklyn, NY *28-0*

4 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *25-3-1*

5 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-0*

6 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *70-3*

7 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA *35-3*

8 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *41-1*

9 LENNOX LEWIS
England *18-0*

10 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *26-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *28-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

3 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *42-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *52-5-1*

5 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *20-1*

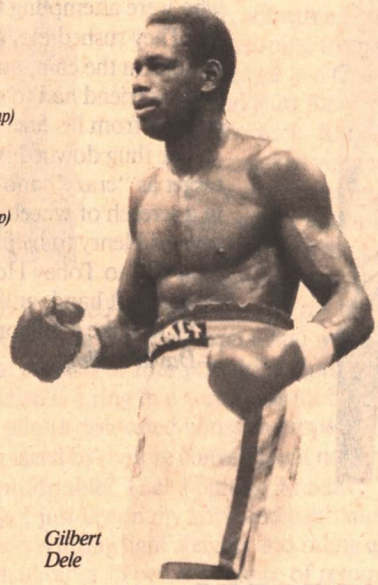
6 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *29-2-1*

7 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *15-0*

8 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *19-0*

9 SEGUNDO MERCADO
Puerto Rico *11-2*

10 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *23-2*



Gilbert Dele

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *30-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *53-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 VERNON PHILLIPS
New York, NY *14-5*

6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *32-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *29-1-1*

8 JORGE VACA
Mexico *44-8-1*

9 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *64-3-2*

10 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *32-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *40-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *13-4-4*

5 MARCOS VILLASANA
Mexico *54-8-2*

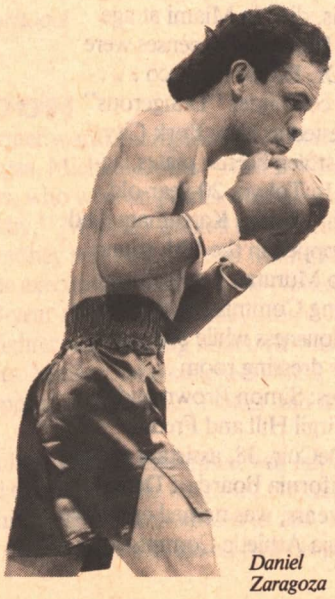
6 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy *44-1*

7 JOSE MARTINEZ
Hanford, CA *17-4-1*

8 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *26-2-1*

9 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *24-0*

10 RICARDO CEPEDA
Bronx, NY *24-1-1*



Daniel Zaragoza

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*

2 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 RAUL PEREZ
Mexico *49-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *44-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *32-3-2*

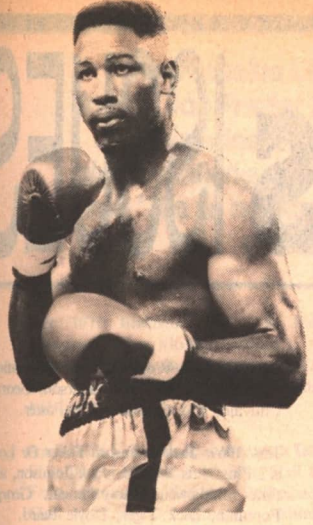
6 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *39-4*

7 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *26-3*

8 TRACY PATTERSON
New Paltz, NY *43-2*

9 JEMAL HINTON
District Heights, MD *20-0*

10 LUISITO ESPINOSA
Philippines *25-6*



Lennox Lewis

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 JEFF LAMPKIN
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 BOBBY CZYZ
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 JAMES WARRING
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 ANACLET WAMBA
France *33-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 TAOUFIK BELBOULI
France *29-1-1*

6 ALFRED COLE
Newark, NJ *20-1*

7 ORLIN NORRIS
Campo, CA *31-3*

8 ROBERT DANIELS
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

9 DENNIS ANDRIES
Detroit, MI *40-9-2*

10 DWIGHT QAWI
Lindenwold, NJ *37-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 THOMAS HEARNS
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 VIRGIL HILL
Las Vegas, NV *30-1*

4 JEFF HARDING
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 FRANK TATE
Houston, TX *29-2*

6 GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI
Germany *32-0*

7 ANDREW MAYNARD
Laurel, MD *18-1*

8 ANTHONY HEMBRICK
Beckley, WV *22-1-1*

9 LEEONZER BARBER
Detroit, MI *13-1*

10 CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO
France *30-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 VICTOR CORDOBA
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 MICHAEL NUNN
Davenport, IA *37-1*

3 DARRIN VAN HORN
Lexington, KY *47-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 CHRIS EUBANK
England *29-0*

5 LINDELL HOLMES
Detroit, MI *44-6-1*

6 MAURO GALVANO
Italy *17-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

7 NIGEL BENN
England *30-2*

8 TONY THORNTON
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

9 MERQUI SOSA
New York, NY *19-2*

10 RANDALL YONKER
Mobile, AL *20-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 MELDRICK TAYLOR
Cheltenham, PA *28-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 BUDDY McGIRT
Brentwood, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 SIMON BROWN
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 MAURICE BLOCKER
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 GENARO LEON
Mexico *39-2-2*

6 GLENWOOD BROWN
Plainfield, NJ *34-2*

7 CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 HIROYUKI YOSHINO
Japan *20-3-1*

9 SANTOS CARDONA
Puerto Rico *22-3*

10 DAVID GONZALEZ
San Jose, CA *27-1-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico *77-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 RAFAEL PINEDA
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 EDWIN ROSARIO
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

4 TERRENCE ALLI
Linden, NJ *47-7-2*

5 CHARLES MURRAY
Newark, NJ *23-1*

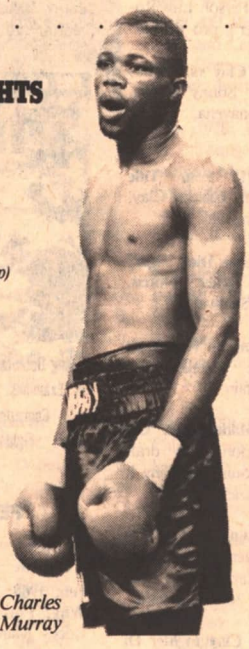
6 HECTOR CAMACHO
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

7 GREG HAUGEN
Henderson, NV *29-4-1*

8 ROGER MAYWEATHER
Las Vegas, NV *40-7*

9 LORETO GARZA
Sacramento, CA *29-2-1*

10 PAT BARRETT
England *31-1-1*



Charles Murray

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA *27-1 (World Champ)*

2 FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

3 JORGE PAEZ
Mexico *39-4-4*

4 TRACY SPANN
Plainfield, NJ *26-1*

5 DARRYLL TYSON
Washington, D.C. *36-4*

6 SHARMBA MITCHELL
Takoma Park, MD *25-0*

7 CHIL SUNG CHUN
South Korea *17-1*

8 POLI DIAZ
Spain *31-1*

9 JOEY GAMACHE
Lewiston, ME *26-0*

10 MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico *24-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 JEFF FENECH
Australia *26-0-1*

2 AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 BRIAN MITCHELL
South Africa *43-1-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

5 GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA *24-0 (WBA Champ)*

6 JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico *24-3*

7 EUGENE SPEED
Palmer Park, MD *21-0*

8 REGILIO TUUR
Whitestone, NY *26-1-1*

9 GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA *26-1*

10 JACKIE GUNGULUZA
South Africa *24-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *29-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *35-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 PEPILLO VALDEZ
Mexico *39-3-1*

5 JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY *21-0*

6 DUKE McKENZIE
England *30-2*

7 THIERRY JACOB
France *31-3*

8 YONG HOON LEE
South Korea *19-0*

9 ELIECER JULIO
Colombia *19-0*

10 GERARDO MARTINEZ
San Jose, CA *27-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 KHAOSAI GALAXY
Thailand *48-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 ROBERT QUIROGA
San Antonio, TX *18-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 SUNG KIL MOON
South Korea *15-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 JOSE RUIZ
Puerto Rico *22-2*

5 THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY
Thailand *37-2*

6 GREG RICHARDSON
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 ARMANDO CASTRO
Mexico *44-8-1*

8 VINCENZO BELCASTRO
Italy *21-5-3*

9 DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela *11-1*

10 CARLOS MERCADO
Colombia *21-0-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM
Thailand *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 DAVE McAULEY
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 YONG KANG KIM
South Korea *24-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 RODOLFO BLANCO
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 SOT CHITALADA
Thailand *26-3-1*

6 JUNG KOO CHANG
South Korea *38-4*

7 YURI ARBACHAKOV
Soviet Union *10-0*

8 YUN UN CHIN
South Korea *25-0*

9 YSAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA *26-3-1*

10 SCOTTY OLSON
Las Vegas, NV *19-0*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 MYUNG WOO YUH
South Korea *36-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ *21-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 HUMBERTO GONZALEZ
Mexico *31-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico *30-3-3*

5 HIROKI IOKA
Japan *18-2-1*

6 DOMINGO SOSA
Dominican Republic *16-0*

7 LEON SALAZAR
Panama *15-3-1*

8 JOSE DeJESUS
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

9 JERRY PENALOSA
Philippines *13-0-1*

10 ROBINSON CUESTAS
Panama *21-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Junior Welterweight

2 PERNELL WHITAKER
Lightweight

3 MELDRICK TAYLOR
Welterweight

4 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Heavyweight

5 MIKE TYSON
Heavyweight

6 MYUNG WOO YUH
Light Flyweight

7 JEFF FENECH
Junior Lightweight

8 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Bantamweight

9 BUDDY McGIRT
Welterweight

10 KHAOSAI GALAXY
Junior Bantamweight

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

ONLY $10 EACH

Oct. 1961: Boxing Series—Phony? Plus: Gene Fullmer, famous fights recalled, Cassius Clay, Harry Greb, Dick Tiger, Floyd Patterson.

May 1963: Las Vegas—The New Capital. Plus: Jose Torres, Gus Lesnevich, Floyd Patterson, Sonny Liston, Cassius Clay, Luis Rodriguez, Tiger-Fullmer.

July 1963: Carlos Ortiz: "Vacate My Title?" Plus: Gene Fullmer, the flaw in Cassius Clay, Liston-Patterson II prefight, Paul Pender, Willie Pastrano.

Aug. 1963: Three Big Championship Fights (Pastrano-Johnson, Griffith-Rodriguez, Perkins-Cruz). Plus: Mike Jacobs, sour decisions, Rubin Carter, Liston-Patterson II preview, Jack Root.

Jan. 1964: Joey Archer: Boxing's Greatest Hero. Plus: Cassius Clay, Dempsey vs. Schmeling, Dempsey vs. Baer, Cleveland Williams, Ingemar Johansson.

June 1964: Joey Giardello: "I'm Young Again!" Plus: Cassius Clay, Floyd Patterson, Willie Pastrano, Carlos Ortiz.

July 1964: Will Bobo Olson Win Title? Plus: Polo Grounds, Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Sugar Ramos.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Jose Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

Oct. 1964: Liston Couldn't Be Sidetracked. Plus: TV boxing, Dick Tiger, Persol-Olson, Jesus Pimental.

Feb. 1965: Where Do Our Heavies Stand Now? Plus: James J. Braddock, Emile Griffith, Jose Torres, Willie Pastrano, Oscar Bonavena, Eder Jofre.

April 1965: Clay Clamors For White Hopes. Plus: Jack Dempsey, Jess Willard, Patterson-Chuvalo, Carlos Hernandez, Tony Galento, Joe Louis.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Aug. 1965: What Really Happened At Lewiston? Plus: Dick Tiger, Doc Kearns, Laguna-Ortiz, Patterson-Herring.

Sept. 1965: Walcott: Clay Could Beat Dempsey! Plus: Ali-Liston II backlash, Henry Hank, Willie Pep, Nino Benvenuti.

Oct. 1965: Will $$$ Still Lure Wilt? Plus: Jose Torres, Floyd Patterson, Joe Frazier, four ring hopefuls, Billy Conn, Liston-Clay, Flash Elorde.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

Dec. 1965: Experts Pick Clay vs. Patterson. Plus: Jose Torres, Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, Oscar Bonavena, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1966: Explosion!!! Four Title Fights!!! Plus: Dick Tiger, Cassius Clay, Ernie Terrell, George Chuvalo.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Sept. 1966: France Claims Its First Welter Title. Plus: Ernie Terrell, Nino Benvenuti, U.S. vs. Britain.

Oct. 1966: How Did Mildenberger Get There? Plus: Clay-London, Clay draft appeal, Sonny Liston, Louis-Schmeling I, Griffith-Archer, Joe Frazier.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

March 1967: Why Isn't Clay Fighter Of The Year? Plus: Year-end issue, 2,500 fighters rated, Tiger-Torres, Clay-Terrell, Curtis Cokes.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

May 1967: Cassius Clay: "Louis Clobber Me? He Must Be Joking!" Plus: Frazier-Jones, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, Frazier-Mathis preview, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1967: They're Talking Frazier Now!!! Plus: Ali-Folley, Joe Louis, Ismael Laguna, Clay-Ellis?, Joe Gans.

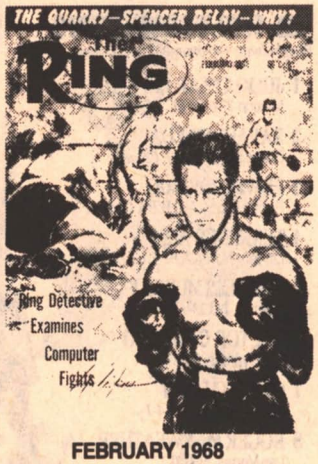
Aug. 1967: Karl Mildenberger: Germany's Second Schmeling? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Foster-Cotton, Curtis Cokes, Tiger-Torres II, heavyweight analysis.

Sept. 1967: Nino Benvenuti: Italy's Greatest Ever? Plus: Sonny Liston, Primo Carnera dead, Clay's court battles, Vicente Saldivar, Yoshiaki Numata.

Oct. 1967: Frazier's Demolition Of Chuvalo Sparked Ice Bag Mystery. Plus: Ortiz-Ramos, Madison Square Garden tourney, Primo Carnera tribute.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.



FEBRUARY 1968

Feb. 1968: The Quarry-Spencer Delay—Why? Plus: Bob Foster, Buster Mathis, Rocky Marciano, Jimmy Ellis, Dick Tiger, all-time heavyweight tournament.

April 1968: Spectre Of Clay Haunts Heavy Situation (painting by LeRoy Neiman) Plus: Transcript of Clay trial, Rocky Marciano, Ingemar Johansson, Bob Foster, Jerry Quarry.

May 1968: Quarry Revives White Hope Cry!!! Plus: Frazier-Mathis, Jimmy Ellis, Joe Frazier, Dick Tiger, Bob Foster, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

Sept. 1968: Foster: "I'm The Best Fighter In The World." Plus: Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Jack Dempsey, Manuel Ramos, Ortiz-Cruz, heavyweight enigmas.

Oct. 1968: Olympics Beckon To Seekers Of Heavyweight Riches. Plus: Joe Frazier, Sonny Liston, Joe Louis, middleweights, Buster Mathis.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

Jan. 1969: Jack Johnson, Faker Or Loser? Plus: Jess Willard, Jack Johnson, all-time middleweight tournament, George Foreman, Dick Tiger, Doyle Baird.
Feb. 1969: How Good Is Olympic Champ Foreman? Plus: Floyd Patterson, Emile Griffith, Freddie Little, George Chuvalo, Hall of Fame (Baer, O'Brien, Hyer), Lou Brouillard.

March 1969: Nino Benvenuti: Fighter Of The Year (96-Page Special). Plus: Year-end awards, greatest in each division, Jess Willard's death, Frazier-Bonavena, Liston-Lincoln.

April 1969: Controversy Rages: Ketchel Or Robinson? Plus: Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, computer fights, Buster Mathis.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

June 1969: Do Women Really Rule Boxing? Plus: Mando Ramos, trainers, Cassius Clay, Jerry Quarry, knockdown rule.

Oct. 1969: "How I'll Win" by Joe Frazier & Jimmy Ellis. Plus: What's next for Clay, Joe Bugner, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Mac Foster, Vicente Saldivar.

Nov. 1969: How Much Has Aging Liston Left? Plus: Ruben Olivares, Tommy Walsh, Battling Levinsky, referees.

Feb. 1970: Computer Controversy—Clay Or Marciano? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Dick Tiger, Mike Quarry, Carlos Ortiz, Foreman-Davila, Johnny Griffin.

June 1970: Stars Warn Frazier On His Future! Plus: Willie Pep, Bethea-Benvenuti, Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier.

Nov. 1970: Is George Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Chuvalo, British fighters, Randy Turpin, Tommy Farr.

Dec. 1970: Frazier's Title In Jeopardy? Plus: Patterson-Green, Bob Foster, Frazier-Foreman preview, Schmeling-Sharkey.

July 1971: Is George Foreman Next Champ? Plus: Frazier-Clay, Olivares-Castillo, 105 rounds of mayhem, Nicolino Loche, Foster-Anderson.

Aug. 1971: Nino's Kayo—U.S. Judge Tells All! Plus: Wilt Chamberlain, Monzon-Benvenuti II, Adolph Pruitt, Napoles-Backus II, Denny McNamee.

Nov. 1971: Gene Tunney Finally Talks On Clay, Frazier, Dempsey! Plus: Jose Napoles, Al Silvani, Clay-Frazier II?, Cus D'Amato, Marcano-Kobayashi, Ezzard Charles, Ruben Navarro.

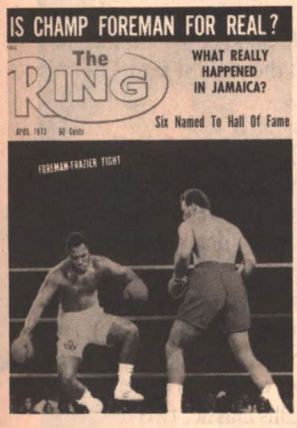
When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

Dec. 1971: Buchanan No. 1 In Fistic Cleverness? Plus: Monzon-Griffith I, Joe Bugner, Tommy Burns, Buchanan-Duran?, New York Boxing, Bodell-Bugner, "Halimi" Gutierrez.

April 1972: Is Frazier-Clay Rematch Off? Plus: Frazier-Daniels, Clay-Blin, Hall Of Fame (Graziano, Saddler, Berlenbach, Clark, Flowers), Armando Muniz, Pascual Perez, Griffith rates Monzon, fights that never came off, Tito Lectoure.

Jan. 1973: Big Heavyweight Shakeup! Plus: Lyle-Mathis, Bugner-Blin, Griffith-DeNucci, WBA, Jack Sharkey, the man who stopped Ali, Bennie Briscoe, Ray Lampkin, Kid Chocolate, Ernie Terrell, Walter Seeley, Chacon-Reyes.

Feb. 1973: Is Heavyweight Ron Lyle For Real? Plus: Ali-Foster, Duran-DeJesus I, Monzon-Briscoe II, Danny Lopez, Antonio Cervantes, Frazier-Foreman preview.



APRIL 1973

April 1973: Is Champ Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Frazier I, Rudiger Schmidke, Hall Of Fame (Rosenbloom, Zivic, Jack, Papke, LaBarba), Sugar Ray Seales, Rodolfo Gonzalez.

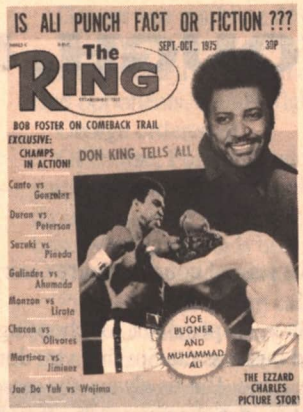
Aug. 1973: Joe Frazier: "I Will Beat Foreman Or Quit!" Plus: Ruben Olivares, Bobby Chacon, Carol Polis, Monzon-Griffith II, Vito Antuofermo, Herrera-Martinez, Lopez-Ordunez.

Oct. 1973: The Private Life Of George Foreman Plus: Carlos Monzon, WBA/WBC, Frazier-Bugner, George Foreman, DeJesus-Lampkin II.

Nov. 1973: World Title Fight Barrage! Plus: Foreman-Roman, Foster-Fourie, Joe Bugner, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Harry Greb, Anaya-Pinder, Henry Nissen, Muniz-Lopez.

Dec. 1974: Inside Story From Zaire! Plus: Foreman-Ali postponement, Bob Foster's retirement, Teofilo Stevenson, Chacon-Marcano, Roberto Duran, Jimmy Wilde & Barney Ross.

April 1975: Chuck Wepner Story: A Tale Out Of Fiction. Plus: Joe Louis, Redd Foxx, Hall of Fame (Curtis, Fullmer, Tiger, Klaus, Chaney), Alexis Arguello, Marvin Hagler, Chacon-Lopez, Ali-Foreman II?, Miguel Canto.



SEPT.-OCT.1975

Sept.-Oct. 1975: Is Ali Punch Fact Or Fiction? Plus: Don King, Ali-Bugner II, Monzon-Licata, Duran-Peterson, Olivares-Chacon, Galindez-Ahumada, Monroe-Hart, Ezzard Charles dies.

Aug. 1976: First American To Hold Word Title In Each Division. Plus: John L. Sullivan, Ali-Dunn, DeJesus-Suzuki, Zarate-Martinez, Foster's comeback, Duran-Mamby, Lopez-Gomez.

Sept. 1976: Ali-Norton: Special Heavyweight Issue! Plus: Vonzell Johnson, Palomino-Stracey, Galindez-Kates, Foreman-Frazier II, Arguello-Torres, Oscar Bonavena's death.

June 1977: What Now, George Foreman? Plus: Marvis Frazier, Carlos Palomino, Harold Weston, Antuofermo-Hart, Lyle-Bugner, Gazo-Castellini, Conteh-Hutchins, the comeback of George Chuvalo, Jimmy Young, Hagler-Monroe.

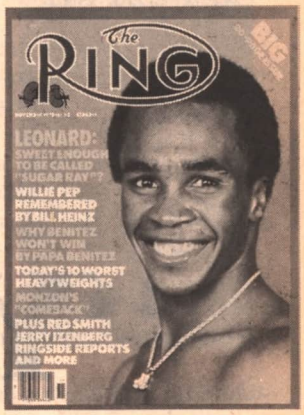
Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Feb. 1978: Exclusive Coverage: Norton vs. Young. Plus: Galindez-Gregory, Saensak Muangsurin, Leon Spinks, Matt Franklin, Valdes-Briscoe, heavyweight comebacks, Jerry Quarry, Ray Leonard, Carlos Zarate

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Aug. 1979: Fights You Want To See! Plus: Leonard-Geraldo, Hearns-Weston, Ron Lyle, James Scott, Jeff Chandler, Davey Moore, Scandinavian fighters, big-fight previews.

Sept. 1979: Is Holmes Ali's Successor? Plus: Holmes-Weaver, Duran-Palomino, Lopez-Ayala, Coetzee-Spinks, Pintor-Zarate, Tate-Knoetze, Kim-Guisseppi, Lopez-Ayala, Gomez-Hernandez, German greats, Rocky II.



NOVEMBER 1979

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

☐ Oct/61	☐ Aug/65	☐ Jun/67	☐ Nov/68	☐ Dec/70	☐ Apr/75
☐ May/63	☐ Sep/65	☐ Aug/67	☐ Dec/68	☐ Jul/71	☐ Sep-Oct/75
☐ Jul/63	☐ Oct/65	☐ Sep/67	☐ Jan/69	☐ Aug/71	☐ Aug/76
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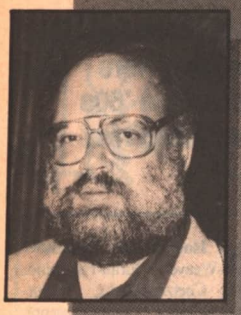


Katz Scan

By Michael Katz

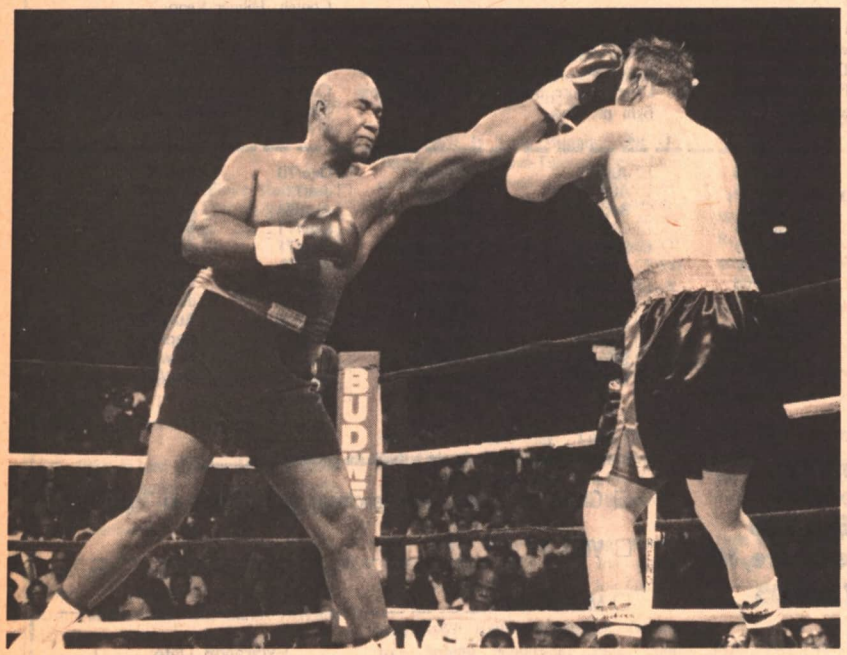
"LIFE TOUGH, DADDY"

"You don't fight Santa Claus." Unless, of course, you're George Foreman.

Then you can charge $19.95.

This is not in reference to George's penchant for choosing soft opponents, the older the better, but to the time-honored business maxim that you don't compete with Christmas, especially in a casino town like Reno. But tis always the season for Big George, who packed them in for a farcical matchup against one Jimmy Ellis. (Not the good one, who's older than George.) Foreman drew almost a capacity crowd. He had people lined up to watch what he laughingly calls "training" sessions. He received the highest rating of any of the 10 HBO fights in 1991.

To which we should add, "Bah, humbug."



George Foreman earned $5-million for playing with the overmatched Jimmy Ellis, whom he stopped in three ugly rounds.

This is no disparagement of George's cheeseburger money. His good works—admissions for the training sessions were donated to charity—and good spirit have brightened the endless winter.

Still, it is a sad commentary on what happens to real fighters in real fights who try to compete with boxing's Henny Youngman. On weekends either side of the Foreman-Ellis classic, two of the year's best fights went largely ignored.

The weekend before, in the most significant welterweight matchup of 1991, Buddy McGirt artistically upset Simon Brown, and of the 1,500 fans attending in a 4,000-seat arena, only half paid. The weekend after Foreman-Ellis, James Toney and Mike McCallum added another gem to the middleweight tiara with their draw—and drew maybe 4,000 fans to Atlantic City's cavernous Convention Center.

It just ain't fair.

Or, as my daughter Moorea, then 14 months old, informed me, "Life tough, Daddy."

It's been tough for McGirt. No one was interested in a 140-pounder from Long Island, a boxing desert that had never produced a world champion. He was 2-0-1 when a friend asked me if we should invest in Buddy.

"A junior welterweight? How are you going to make money with a junior welterweight? Maybe he makes it to the top 10. So what?"

Or, maybe that's how my daughter realized "life tough," having such an astute businessman for a father.

McGirt, meanwhile, kept attending to business. He would ride the Long Island Rail-

road into New York City, and then switch to a bus and train that took him to a dusty walkup gym in Jersey City. Every day, he made the two-hour trip (one-way). While other kids were hanging out on the street, McGirt was in the tailor shop of his manager and trainer, Al Certo, where the greats like Willie Pep and Jersey Joe Walcott and Jake LaMotta would gather and talk boxing. He would listen as they would point out little moves to him. He worked at his trade.

George was eating pizza.

Simon Brown got a job as a sparring partner for Sugar Ray Leonard. He fought every tough guy who would get into the ring with him as he strained to make the 147-pound welterweight limit. He barely ate at all the week before he fought McGirt.

George had a second helping of fried chicken.

James Toney, the intensity and fire burning as brightly as it did once for Marvelous Marvin Hagler, has demanded to face the best. He wouldn't want it any other way.

George was gobbling down cupcakes.

Mike McCallum, who some say is as old as Foreman, couldn't afford to retire for 10 years. He quietly has been one of the best, but has had to hopscotch around the world to find opponents, usually fighting in the other guy's home country.

George ordered in.

Of course, Foreman paid his dues. He made himself into the jolly character that captivated America. He is a multimedia star, not a mere boxer. Nothing wrong with that, though I suspect Richard Pryor could never get people to plop down $19.95 to watch him box. What is wrong is boxing's problem, not George's.

The public is damning itself.

Promoter Bob Arum calls them "appearance" fights. That is, they're really not fights, just appearances by stars. Ed Sullivan made a living out of introducing celebrities in his TV audience. It's a free country.

James Toney and Mike McCallum engaged in a significant and memorable duel, but only 4,000 fans came to see them.

While Arum certainly kept the profits from the Foreman-Ellis fight, he maintains that he decries "appearance" fights. He says they turn off the public. Maybe, but so far the public seems willing to buy anything George wants to sell. What it does unfairly, however, is belittle the real warriors—the McGirts and Toneys—and the kids who are on their way.

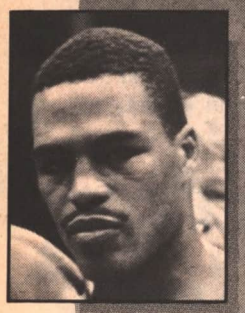
There is a depression in boxing. The networks have virtually pulled the plug. Pay-per-view promises riches, but only to the rich—fighters who have already cashed in on their popularity.

"It's a problem all over boxing, getting our fighters exposure," said Gary Gittlesohn, manager of the brilliant bantamweight prospect Junior Jones.

Gittlesohn would have less of a problem if Junior would go on the Foreman diet and become a heavyweight. In another example of unfair play, the bigger they are, the more money they make. Foreman made more than twice the purses of McGirt, Brown, Toney, and McCallum combined. Riddick Bore, he of the jab-jab-right hand, signed a Time Warner deal for three fights against Foreman's rejects and will make more money than a lighter man would make for facing King Kong.

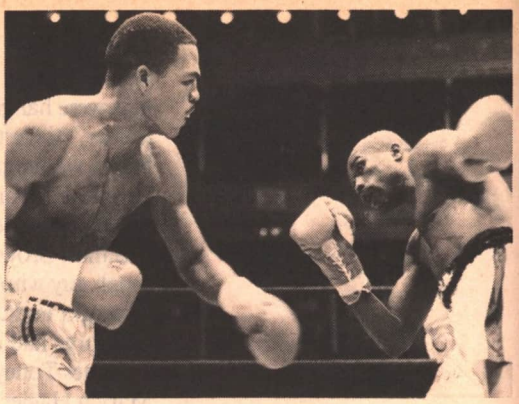
The smaller fighters hear about the heavyweight purses—$30-million for Evander Holyfield to fight Mike Tyson, $24-million for Buster Douglas to lie down against Holyfield—and think, "Hey, I'm better than these guys, I should be making that kind of money." Promoters laugh at Thomas Hearns for establishing $1-million as his minimum wage. Hearns must cry bitterly at lesser, but bigger, fighters making multiples of that.

Maybe the mythical pound-for-pound ratings should be tied to a dollar-for-dollar pay scale. Fighters should get paid according to their ability and according to their opposition. But that would be in a fair world. In this, the best of all possible corruptions, the good little man can eat his heart out—if Foreman hasn't devoured it already. ■



New Faces

By Joseph C. Tintle



McClellan tames "The Beast"

Gerald McClellan

Middleweight

Gerald McClellan has been a solid professional fighter for more than three years. But despite compiling a record of 23-2 (21), he's never enjoyed the attention reserved for his more celebrated teammates at Detroit's Kronk Gym. And while McClellan understands why heavyweight Michael Moorer and junior welterweight Oba Carr have received extensive media coverage, it annoys him that he has been all but ignored.

"I've got nothing against Michael or Oba," said the 24-year-old McClellan, who still lives in his hometown of Freeport, Illinois, and regularly makes the seven-hour drive to Detroit. "They deserve what they get. But I'd like some attention, too."

Emanuel Steward, who trains McClellan, blamed the fighter for his anonymity. For half of McClellan's career, Steward said, he refused to spar the necessary rounds before his fights, which resulted in two consecutive losses. Steward also said that McClellan is afraid to fly to big fights, where the boss of Kronk makes his fighters available to the media. If McClellan expected to get noticed, Steward told the fighter, he'd have to change his outlook toward training and traveling.

When McClellan was still an amateur—he was named ABF Boxer of the Year in 1987 and compiled an overall mark of 72-10 (50)—he heard about the brutal Kronk gym wars. So upon turning pro, he worried that he might suffer early burnout. As a result, he sparred only two rounds a day.

"I told him that wasn't enough, but he didn't listen," Steward said. "So I said, 'Okay, fine. Someday you'll see.' "

At the time, McClellan had too much faith in his powerful right hand and deadening left hook to the body. They've always been his best weapons, but in June 1989, they were rendered useless by Dennis Milton. McClellan went into the match certain of a kayo. But when Milton showed him movement and angles, he couldn't solidly land his powerpunches. Winded by round eight, McClellan failed to summon a final charge, and Milton took the decision.

Three months later, McClellan fought Ralph Ward, an average fighter at best. McClellan had learned nothing from his loss to Milton, and, believing victory would come by knockout, again prepared with light sparring. But the kayo never came, and he lost another decision.

"I learned two things from those fights," McClellan said. "If I was ever going to be a big finisher, I had to start sparring more rounds in training. And I had to run more. Manny was right all along."

Since his second loss, McClellan has changed his approach, and he's won 13 consecutive fights, 11 by knockout. But the fights that reveal the new McClellan have been his distance fights. During his 1990 eight-rounders with Sanderline Williams and Charles Hollis, McClellan displayed more than enough boxing skill, and, more importantly, comfort in going the distance.

(Continued on page 54)

Photos by Pete Goldfield

PRO RECORD

	1988	
Aug. 12	Roy Hundley, Milwaukee	KO 1
Sept. 15	Bill Davis, Glen Burnie, MD	KO 1
Nov. 3	Danny Lowry, Las Vegas	KO 1
Nov. 22	Ezequil Obando, Las Vegas	KO 1
Nov. 25	John Gordon, Auburn Hills, MI	KO 2
Dec. 3	Jerome Kelly, Brook Park, OH	KO 1
	1989	
Feb. 4	Joe Goodman, Biloxi, MS	KO 2
Feb. 10	Anthony Jackson, Waukesha, WI	KO 1
Feb. 19	Tyrone McKnight, Monessen, PA	KO 2
April 14	Ben Judah, Milwaukee	KO 1
June 24	Dennis Milton, Atlantic City	L 8
Sept. 21	Ralph Ward, Atlantic City	L 8
Dec. 14	Willie Caldwell, Saginaw, MI	KO 1
	1990	
Jan. 20	James Williamson, Bristol, TN	KO 1
March 10	Ron Martin, Atlantic City	KO 1
April 26	Brinatty Maquilon, Atlantic City	KO 3
June 12	James Fernandez, New Orleans	KO 2
Aug. 21	Sanderline Williams, Auburn Hills	W 8
Sept. 14	Charles Hollis, Benoit, WI	W 8
Nov. 14	Jose DaSilva, Phoenix	KO 3
Dec. 15	Dan Mitchell, Pittsburgh	KO 1
	1991	
March 1	Ken Hulsey, Duluth, MN	KO 1
July 27	Ivory Teague, Norfolk, VA	KO 3
Aug. 13	Sammy Brooks, Auburn Hills	KO 1
Nov. 20	John Mugabi, London	KO 1

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	25	23	2	0	21

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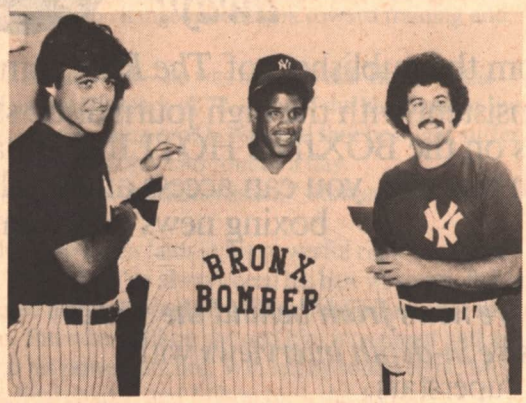
PHOTO QUIZ Test

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1

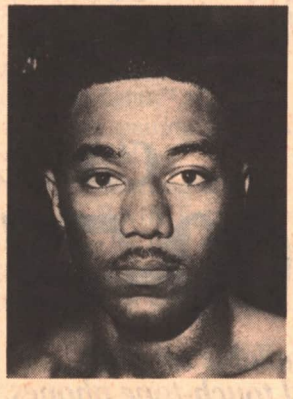
Roberto Duran was thought to be finished after losing on points to this fringe contender in 1982. Hint: Duran's conqueror was a welter from the the U.K.

2



The New York Yankee on the left is Bucky Dent. The Yankee on the right is Rick Cerone. The Yankee in the middle isn't a Yankee at all, but rather an underachieving contender from the Bronx who was a homerun hitter among middleweights.

3



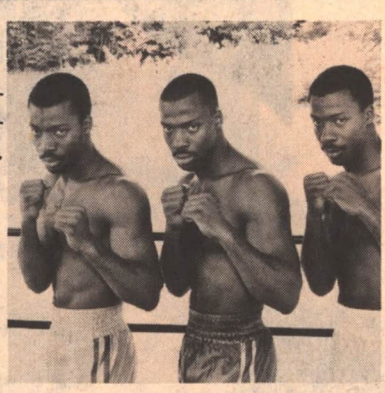
Extra credit if you get this one: This Philly fighter from the '70s was the loser in one of the decade's worst title fight decisions. The 130-pounder never did reach the top, dying a violent death at age 24.

Your Boxing IQ

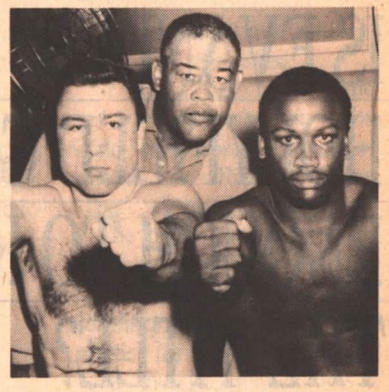
4 Roger Mayweather didn't have much trouble with this quick and clever Puerto Rican world champion during their 1983 title fight, but for several years, a handful of other junior lightweights sure did.

5 We're not asking you to identify this fighter, a forgettable heavyweight from the '70s named Fred Houpe (not Haywood Jones, as his robe says). Nor do we want you to tell us the identity of the man in the sunglasses. (Singer Billy Eckstein.) It's the other guy we're after. He just might have been the funniest manager in boxing history.

6 No trick photography; this really is a photo of three different fighters. They're triplets. None became particularly accomplished, but their big brother won a world heavyweight title. We're not that cruel: Their last name will suffice.

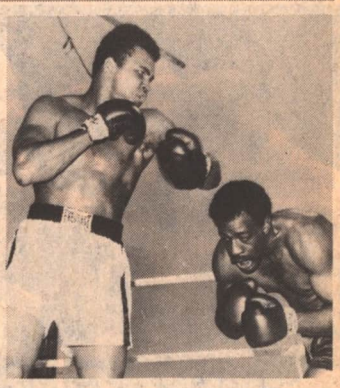


7 Betcha you can tell us which one is Joe Louis and which one is Joe Frazier. But who's the other guy? He never won the world title, but there was never a tougher heavyweight.



8 Before Thanksgiving, Mike Tyson handed out turkeys to needy families. Had he come across this rival, he probably would have hurled one of the birds at his head. At four in the morning.

9 Muhammad Ali was a household name, but we can't say the same for some of his opponents. In 1972, "The Greatest" flew to Ireland and *blew* away this foe in the 11th round.

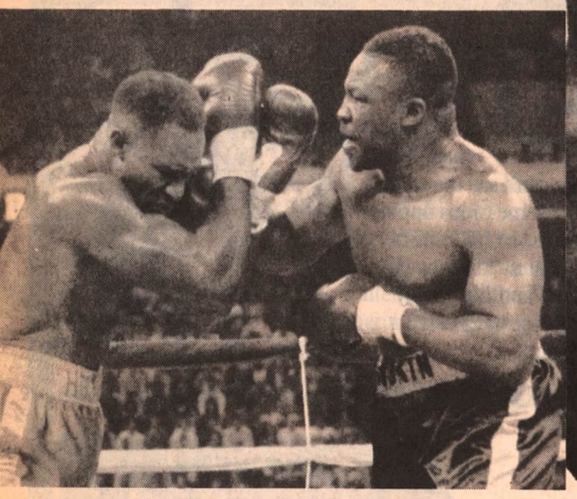


10 In the early-'80s, this Mexican lightweight was billed as a facsimile of Roberto Duran. But he never won a world title, failing miserably against Claude Noel in 1981.

ANSWERS:

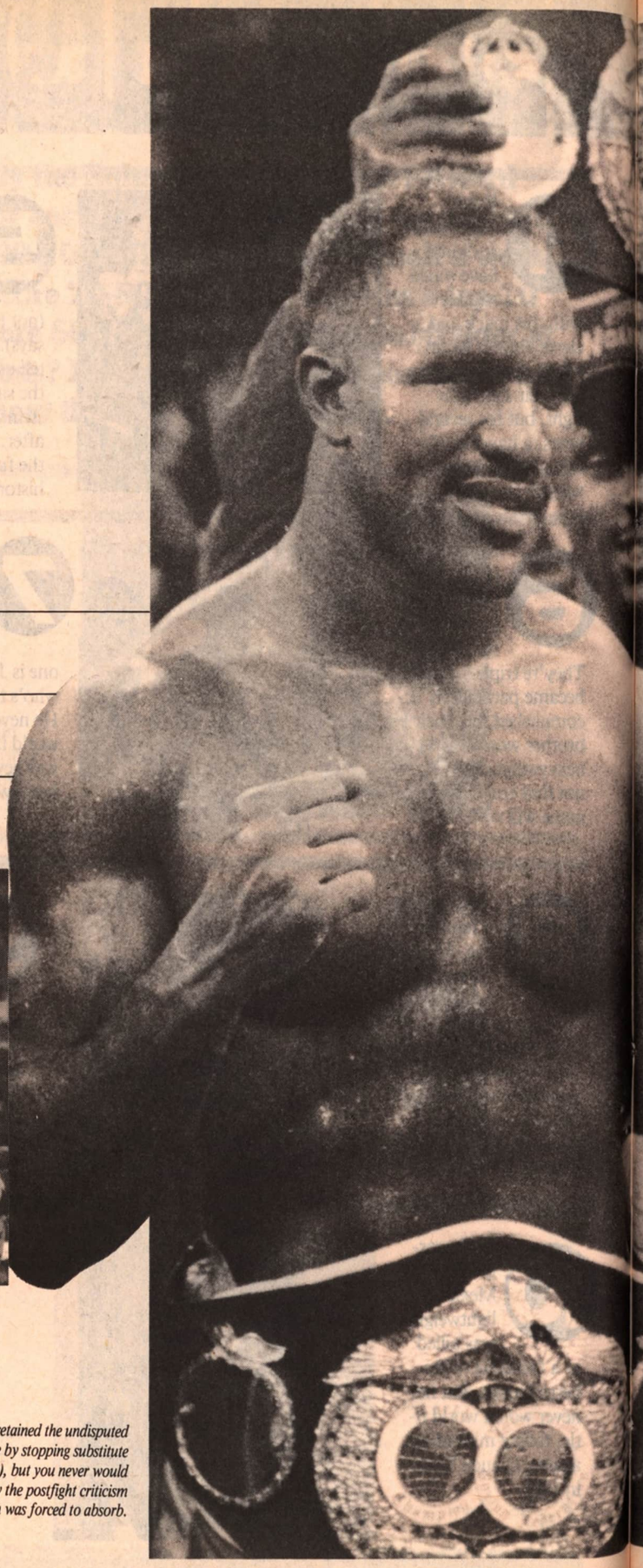
1) Kirkland Laing; 2) Alex Ramos; 3) Tyrone Everett; 4) Sammy Serrano; 5) Redd Foxx; 6) Floyd, Troy, & Lloyd Weaver; 7) George Chuvalo; 8) Mitch Green; 9) Al "Blue" Lewis; 10) Gato Gonzalez

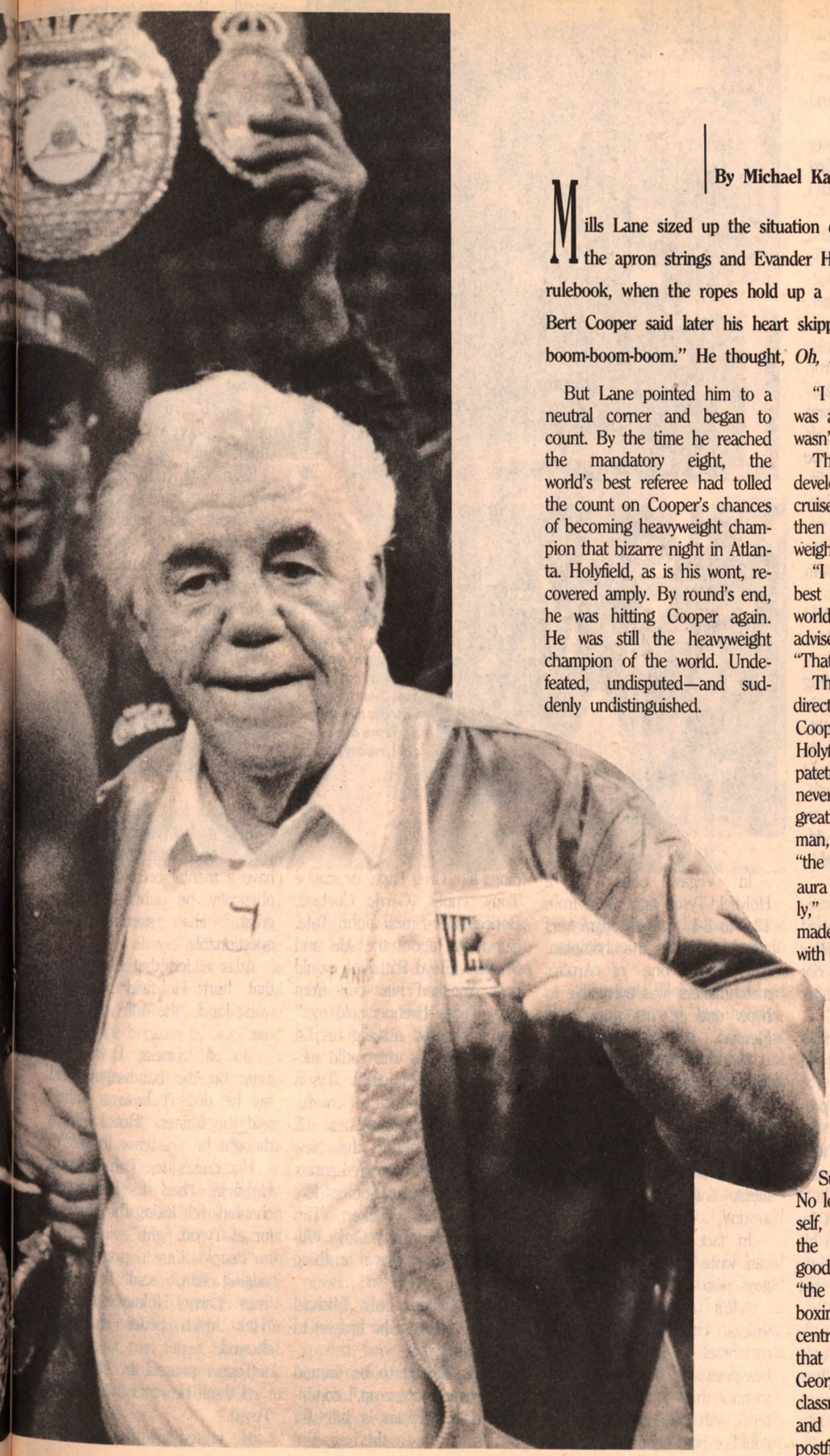
IS EVANDER HOLYFIELD GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP THE TITLE?



Not If He's Only As Good As His Last Fight

Evander Holyfield retained the undisputed heavyweight title by stopping substitute Bert Cooper (above), but you never would have known it by the postfight criticism the champion was forced to absorb.





By Michael Katz

Mills Lane sized up the situation quickly and correctly. Cut the apron strings and Evander Holyfield would fall. In the rulebook, when the ropes hold up a fighter, it's a knockdown. Bert Cooper said later his heart skipped a beat, "then it went boom-boom-boom." He thought, *Oh, boy, this is it.*

But Lane pointed him to a neutral corner and began to count. By the time he reached the mandatory eight, the world's best referee had tolled the count on Cooper's chances of becoming heavyweight champion that bizarre night in Atlanta. Holyfield, as is his wont, recovered amply. By round's end, he was hitting Cooper again. He was still the heavyweight champion of the world. Undefeated, undisputed—and suddenly undistinguished.

"I was surprised how good I was and how good the champ wasn't," Cooper said afterward.

The light heavyweight who developed into the undisputed cruiserweight champion and then built himself into a heavyweight was diminished.

"I always said he was the best cruiserweight in the world," said Loren Cassina, an adviser for Riddick Bowe. "That's all he ever was."

The critics came from every direction. Mike Tyson said the Cooper near-debacle "exposed" Holyfield. Johnny Bos, the peripatetic fight booker, said "I never thought Holyfield was a great heavyweight." Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, said "the Cooper fight damaged his aura of invincibility substantially," explaining that "he had made himself into Superman with his well-known work ethic."

Suddenly, he couldn't punch. "Who expected Cooper to take 57 uppercuts?" said Don Turner. "I used to train Cooper; I was with him when he quit against Bigfoot Martin."

Suddenly, he was stupid. No less than Michael Katz himself, writing in *The Ring*, said the reason Holyfield had a good chance against Tyson was "the brain gap"—that no one in boxing had better mental concentration than Holyfield. But that night in Atlanta, Prof. George Benton angrily left his classroom in Holyfield's corner and refused to attend the postfight press conference.

Holyfield, caught up in his hometown excitement, had abandoned Benton's game plan of circling Cooper and peppering him with jabs and combinations.

"Actually, the best I've ever seen Holyfield was that first round against Cooper," said Bos.

But in the heat of the fight, perhaps wanting to better the performances of George Foreman and Bowe against Cooper, Holyfield went for the knockout. If Foreman could make him quit, if Bowe could drop Cooper in two, then the heavyweight champion of the world was going to show all his hometown buddies what *he* could do. So, to Benton's disgust, he stood in front of Cooper and traded.

And suddenly, he had no chin. One chopping right from Cooper had put a dent in a reputation built on Holyfield withstanding Michael Dokes, Alex Stewart, and even Foreman, standing in there, getting hit, and firing back. He would desperately need this quality against Tyson. As long as he could stand in there, he would have time to frustrate the former champion and get him to the later rounds, when the odds would switch to Holyfield's favor.

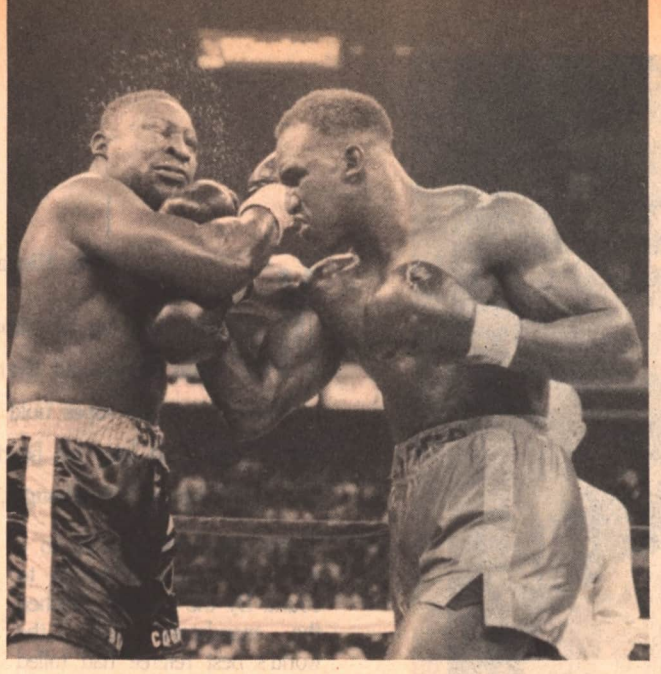
One punch from another reformed cruiserweight had changed that assessment. How was it that Foreman could not hurt Holyfield and Cooper could?

"George hit him high," said Tyson. "He never hit him on the chin."

Bob Arum, Foreman's promoter, begged to differ.

"There's a problem with Evander Holyfield," said Arum. "He was never hit in his whole career the way he was hit by George. It did something to his nervous system. I've seen Cooper before. He couldn't hurt *Reggie Gross*."

Teddy Atlas, who once trained Tyson for Cus D'Amato but has not been in "Iron Mike's" corner for several years, said Holyfield "would be lucky to last a round with Tyson."



Holyfield repeatedly connected against Cooper (above), but produced limited results. When they met the press, Team Cooper knew that their heavyweight was once again a hot property (left).

In Vegas, odds on a Holyfield-Tyson fight went from 12-5 to 3-1, as the oddsmakers also lost faith in the champion. Ron Katz, one of Arum's matchmakers, was even able to hype one of his guys, Ray Mercer.

"I think Mercer licks him without question," said Katz. "Mercer could walk right through him. It looks like the guy has lost some of his desire, with all that talk about retirement, and Tyson not being around."

In fact, added Katz, "you can write down 20 names of guys who could beat him."

"He's a mediocre heavyweight champion," said the matchmaker. "He's a very good heavyweight, but you can't mention him in the same sentence with the greats. Maybe he could've beaten so-called champions like Greg Page, or maybe Tony Tubbs, Gerrie Coetzee, Bonecrusher Smith, John Tate. But forget about the Alis and Fraziers. Floyd Patterson would have knocked him out, from what Teddy Brenner told me."

Katz started making his list of heavyweights who could succeed against Holyfield. Tyson and Razor Ruddock, of course. Bowe, even though Katz still wasn't sure about the New Yorker's heart. Mercer, Lennox Lewis, even the old-timers like Tubbs, Tony Tucker, Tim Witherspoon, and Carl Williams, "if they have anything left."

He omitted only Michael Moorer, "because he has yet to prove himself."

"He's blessed to be around such a mediocre crop," continued Katz. "Tyson is still, for me, far and away the best. But actually, that makes for fun fights, it creates excitement in the division, when everyone else is so evenly matched."

Katz' trashing was not complete. He offered many compliments, calling Holyfield "a tough, gutty guy with above-average skills."

"But he's accomplished what he has with his tremendously big heart and tremendous determination, which allowed him to overcome most heavyweights, the way he faced adversity and won against Dwight Muhammad Qawi [as a cruiserweight], Alex Stewart, Dokes, Cooper, and in that tough struggle with Foreman. He succeeds with will and conditioning."

Even Katz, though, does not put all that much credence in the Cooper fight because of the circumstances surrounding Holyfield's performance. He had been training long and hard for a November 8 date with Tyson and didn't want to waste that conditioning when Tyson's ribs were injured. A November 23 date was made with Francesco Damiani, a retreating, 6'1" Italian. The week before the fight, Damiani twisted an ankle, and the 5'11" Cooper was substituted.

"It's hard to gauge a Cooper fight," said Katz. "He had to have a mental breakdown, and physically, he didn't look that great. His stamina was questionable."

Atlas added that the punch that hurt Holyfield was the worst kind, "the one you don't see."

"In all fairness, I wouldn't jump on the bandwagon and say he doesn't have a chin," said the trainer. "But I always thought he was easy to hit."

His colleague, Turner, said Holyfield, "had to be disenchanted with losing the [chance for a] Tyson fight."

"People are prematurely judging him," said the man from Larry Holmes' corner. "He's much better than he showed."

Turner paused for effect.

"I think he's still better than Tyson."

He waited for the eyebrows

Holyfield brawled with the aggressive challenger and showed none of the patience or intelligence he had displayed vs. Buster Douglas and George Foreman.

to drop before continuing.

"Tyson always had the edge going into a fight because he had terrific control," said Turner. "Now he doesn't have that edge because he does what he wants to do. He doesn't have the controlled environment anymore."

It was a reminder of why many so-called experts—this corner included—had begun to give Holyfield a chance against Tyson. The rust had shown on Iron Mike. If he didn't blast out an opponent quickly, as with Henry Tillman or Alex Stewart, he would settle down to throwing the odd haymaker, but for the most part forget about the deadly combination punching that was winning him a place in the pantheon.

It would always take a dedicated fighter—see Buster Douglas that night in Tokyo—to beat him. And Holyfield was the epitome of dedication.

"Evander Holyfield is a human being," said Dan Duva, the champion's promoter. "Just because he looks like a robot doesn't mean he is."

In other words, that was not Holyfield at his best against Cooper. No kidding. But in Atlanta, the flaws were not exactly hidden. Beforehand, everyone knew that Holyfield did not have heavyweight punching power. The best punch he ever landed, the knockout of Buster Douglas, was thrown after he rocked back on his heels to avoid a wild uppercut, and then pivoted forward with everything behind a right hand that landed on the chin.

And still Douglas could have gotten up, if he had chosen to do so.

In Atlanta, Holyfield was hurt by a cruiserweight, but the cruiserweight weighed 223 that night, and the punch was not seen. True, fortune and Mills Lane interceded on Holyfield's behalf. Had he remained upright and not fallen into the ropes, Cooper might have applied the finishing touches—which a Tyson surely would have.

"I never thought Holyfield was a great heavyweight," said Bos. "He's a solid fighter, a good technician. He's not a big puncher, but he does have a pretty good chin. Nobody who gets hit with the right punch isn't going to be rocked. I'd still rate him among the top five or six heavyweights. But he's no great heavyweight champion. He's a mediocre heavyweight champion."

But it is also true that Holyfield has amazing recuperative power. He was hurt, but he was able to fight back and clear his head at the same time. And it was the only round he lost.

So he didn't fight the smart fight, the one that Benton had programmed. So he's not a robot. So he got caught in the emotion of fighting for the home crowd. So he underestimated Cooper, a feat earlier thought impossible. Does that mean his old intensity wouldn't return against Tyson?

The feeling here is still that Holyfield would rise to the occasion. That doesn't mean he would win, nor that Tyson might not take him out in 91 seconds. It means that Holyfield may be champion, but his crown is shakier than ever. No longer does only a Tyson threaten it. Just about anyone in the division could catch him on the wrong night and beat him.

"I think Larry Holmes might have a better shot against Holyfield than he would against Ray Mercer," said Bos, adding that "Bowe's too big for Holyfield, and Ruddock is, too."

"But Holyfield has a lot of character," countered Ron Katz. "He's accomplished a lot more than anyone believed possible. In fact, I think the most surprised guys that he has attained so much are Shelly Finkel and the Duvas. And that's attributable to his work ethic and his determination.

"Look, he's beaten everybody they put in front of him. That doesn't make him a great fighter. He's a very good fighter."

Only in boxing would that be considered a hard knock. And for the most part, Holyfield has shown he can handle hard knocks. ■

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

SALUTE FROM LEGEND TO LEGEND

(Circa 1943)

RAF Sgt. Freddie Mills respectfully salutes the grave of former featherweight champion Jim Driscoll in Cardiff, Wales. Driscoll, who died in 1925 at age 44, unquestionably was one of the greatest master boxers of all-time, in a class with Abe Attell and Willie Pep. And no fighter in the long history of British boxing was more idolized and beloved by his countrymen than "Peerless" Jim. In his 12-year career (1901-1913), Driscoll lost only twice in 69 recorded bouts.

Freddie Mills held the British and Empire light heavyweight titles at the time this picture was taken. Five years later, he won the world crown from Gus Lesnevich.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

(September 15, 1948)

The promoter of the middleweight title fight between champion Tony Zale and Marcel Cerdan came up with an interesting gimmick: Bring over popular former light heavyweight champ Georges Carpentier from France to help train countryman Cerdan. Surely, the presence of the famed "Orchid Man" would inspire the press to generate an extra flow of ballyhoo that was bound to sell tickets. And of course Georges was sure to be asked the same question reporters had been throwing at him for almost 30 years: "How did it feel to be hit by Jack Dempsey?" And the good-natured Frenchman was sure to reply the same way, rubbing his jaw, smiling, "Like the Eiffel Tower fell on my head."

This picture was taken at Cerdan's training camp in Loch Sheldrake, New York, one week before he kayoed Zale to bring the middleweight crown to France. First to congratulate the new champion was 54-year-old Georges Carpentier, who later quipped, "Maybe I now fight Marcel. He don't punch like Dempsey."

FIRST, PAY YOUR TAXES

(April 19, 1960)

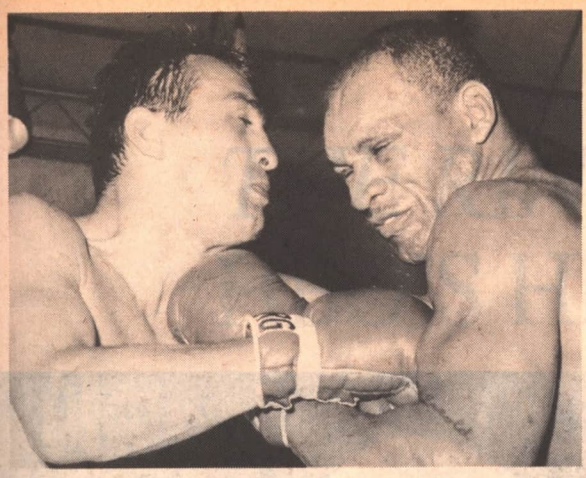
Former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson and his dapper manager Cus D'Amato arrive at the offices of New York State Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz for a crucial meeting that will either clear—or block—the way for Patterson's scheduled return bout with the man who had stripped him of his title the year before, Ingemar Johansson.

The issue to be settled was what the State insisted was an unpaid tax of $50,000 allegedly due for movie, television, and radio rights for Floyd's first fight with Johansson. A quick settlement was made with the attorney general, and two months later Patterson knocked out Ingo to become the first man to regain the heavyweight crown.

REST AND RECREATION FOR THE NEW CHAMP

(May 7, 1966)

Two weeks after he won the middleweight crown from Dick Tiger, Emile Griffith returned home to the Virgin Islands for a well-deserved vacation. What better way to enjoy the fruits of victory than snorkeling in the warm, blue-green waters of the Caribbean, surrounded by a bevy of lovely ladies?



NO HOMETOWN DECISION

(June 23, 1962)

Gustav "Bubi" Scholz was undoubtedly Germany's most popular boxer since Max Schmeling. And rightfully so. For Bubi, as he was affectionately known back home, had everything it takes to make a world champion. In his 15-year career, he lost only two decisions in more than 70 fights. The first of those defeats was to hometown hero Charles Humez in Paris. The other was a grueling 15-rounder to world light heavyweight champion Harold Johnson, in Scholz' hometown of Berlin, in the huge Olympic Stadium where 26 years earlier Adolf Hitler suffered the embarrassment of seeing America's Jesse Owens streaking past his "supermen" and fracture an array of world records.

Scholz (left) fought his heart out against the brilliant Johnson. But the American was far too strong and experienced. At the end, all three officials had to admit their beloved Bubi had been beaten fairly and squarely.

THE PITTSBURGH KID AND HAMMERIN' HANK

(Circa 1941)

What's wrong with this picture? Two of the greatest champions of all-time, in the ring and in full fighting gear, but not a single spectator in sight. Billy Conn (left) and unforgettable Henry Armstrong appear as if they're about to start slugging it out in what would surely have been a classic, regardless of who would have won.

Stop dreaming. Where else could this non-event have occurred but on a Hollywood set? Conn was starring in what turned out to be an easily forgettable movie called *The Pittsburgh Kid.*

Armstrong was induced to play a minor role (for $2,500 plus expenses) because the studio believed his name would add credibility to the film. But not even the magic of Hammerin' Hank could save this clinker.

HUMAN PUNCHING BAG

(September 30, 1909)

Middleweight champion Stanley Ketchel, like all murderous power-hitters, always had problems getting sparring partners. While training for his famous fight with heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, Ketchel, wearing oversized training gloves, sharpened his body attack on a brave but anemic-looking sparmate whose entire lower body was protected by a quilted blanket.

"ROCKY, YOU'RE A GREAT CHAMPION"

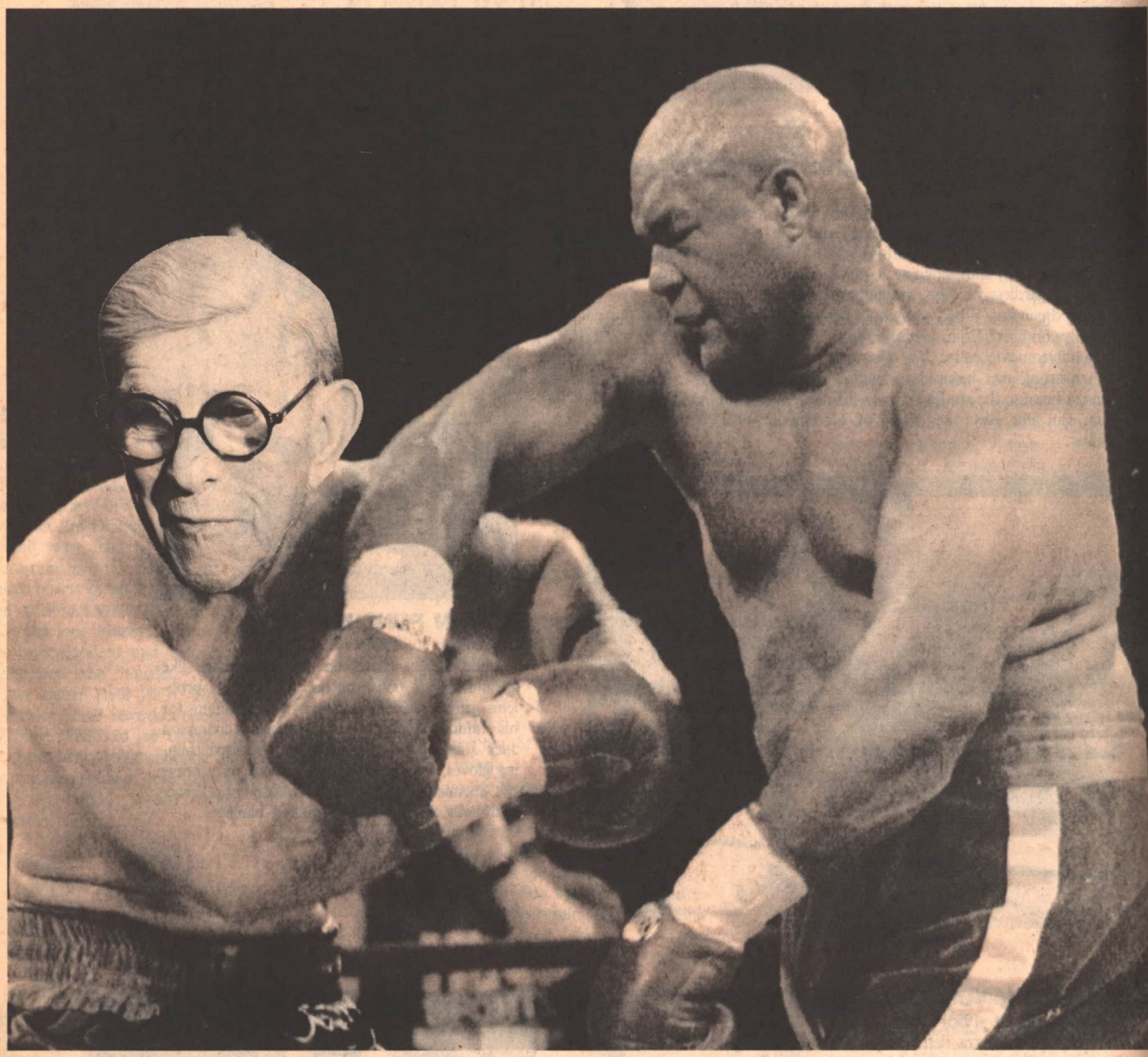
(September 24, 1953)

Roland LaStarza (left) congratulated Rocky Marciano with deep sincerity after he was stopped by the defending champion in 11 rounds at New York's Polo Grounds.

This was their second meeting. Three years before, Rocky, not yet champion, was awarded a 10-round decision over LaStarza in a grueling battle that most of the crowd in Madison Square Garden thought Roland had rightfully won. The vivid memory of that first bout generated enormous interest in the rematch, in which the undefeated champion, although the betting favorite, was not exactly the crowd's hero, as the abundant LaStarza money proved.

Marciano overpowered Roland in the second fight, and although LaStarza rarely backed away and boxed brilliantly, he never really was in contention.

LaStarza's record of having stayed a total of 21 rounds with the awesome Marciano was surpassed only by Ezzard Charles, who managed to plug through 23 rounds with "The Rock."



And George Foreman's Next Oppon

THE RING BUGS HBO'S HEADQUARTERS!

By Steve Farhood

The funniest thing about George Foreman's three-round knockout of Jimmy Ellis was that HBO apologized to its viewing audience not only after the fight, but before it, too. Ellis was a football player accustomed to unnecessary roughness at the line of scrimmage, but not in the ring. He climbed through the ropes with 36 rounds of pro experience and a near-perfect record of 16-0-1. But Ed "Too Tall" Jones never lost a fight, either. At least he was smart enough to retire undefeated.

A few days after the human sacrifice—to Foreman's credit, he tried to be Gentle George—word came that Foreman-Ellis was HBO's highest rated fight of the year. As it turned out, all those apologies were extraneous. Bottom line, you see.

The kayo was the first in Foreman's two-bout deal with HBO. (He's getting a very unrecessionlike $5-million per fight.) Given Ellis' credentials, fight fans can only imagine who will be chosen as victim number two. Send your resumes to Big George, PO Box 379...

After the football player was driven to the canvas, HBO promised "no more Ellises." But remember, Foreman, who is self-managed, must green-light all of his opponents. And since beginning his comeback, his philosophy hasn't wavered: "Title match or mismatch."

As we went to press, Foreman's second HBO opponent hadn't yet been chosen. We're sure there's already been a lot of talk between the pay network and the fighter, however, and some of it has probably gone like this:

(Continued on page 56)

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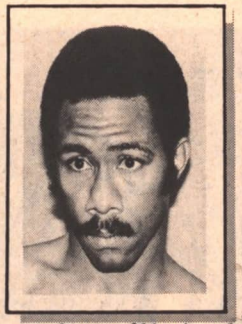
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Eusebio Pedroza

Panama City, Panama
Career: 1973-1986;
1991-Present
40-5-1 with 24 kayos; 1 no-contest

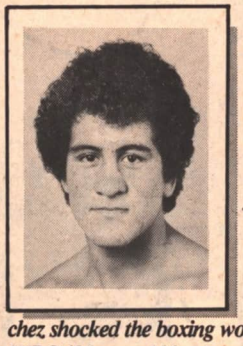


Unfortunately, only hard-core boxing fans realize that in addition to Roberto Duran, Panama has produced several world champions. The most accomplished is Pedroza, who held the WBA featherweight crown for seven years and made a division-record 19 successful defenses. Moreover, Pedroza scored most of his triumphs the hard way—on the road.

Slick, quick, and utterly confident, the stylish boxer outclassed most of his foes, and wore others down with a bolo-punching body attack. He failed in his first title try, losing by second-round kayo to WBA bantamweight champion Alfonso Zamora in April 1976. But after rising in weight, he secured a second chance and dethroned Spain's Cecilio Lastra by 13th-round TKO in April 1978. Among his noteworthy title fight victims: Rocky Lockridge (twice), Juan LaPorte, Ruben Olivares, Jorge Lujan, and Bernard Taylor (they fought to a draw). Now 38, Pedroza recently began a comeback.

Salvador Sanchez

Santiago Tianguistenco, Mexico
Career: 1975-1982
44-1-1 with 32 kayos

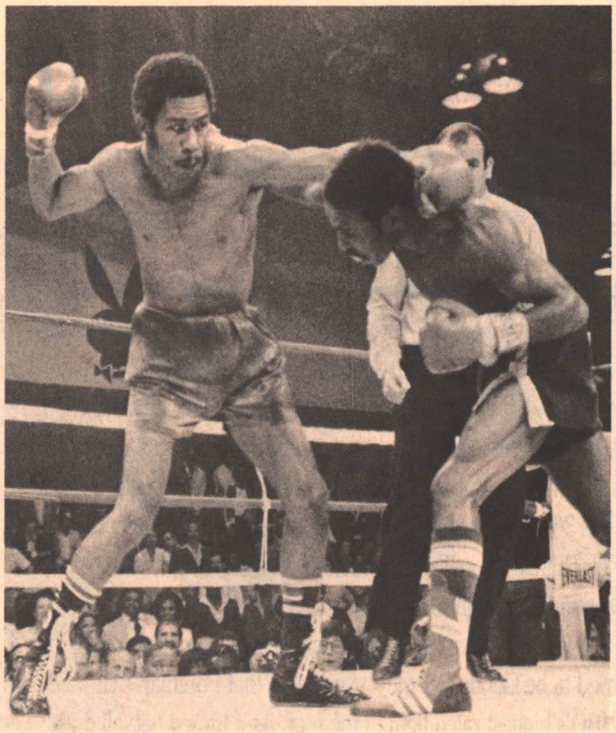


Considering that he died in an auto crash at age 23, Sanchez' career was remarkably full. A 5'7" counterpuncher whose conditioning was his hidden strength, the Mexican failed in his sole attempt at winning a national title, but subsequently dominated the world stage.

In February 1980, Sanchez shocked the boxing world by dethroning long-time WBC 126-pound king Danny Lopez via one-sided 13th-round TKO. (Four months later, he repeated the win by 14th-round TKO.) He went on to make nine successful defenses, and was champion until his tragic death.

In addition to twice stopping Lopez, Sanchez defended against two excellent featherweights, Ruben Castillo (W 15) and Juan LaPorte (W 15), and two great ones, Wilfredo Gomez (KO 8) and Azumah Nelson (KO 15). The possibility of a unification match with Pedroza was never explored, and as a result, fans will be debating this dream matchup for years to come.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



Late-round bolo punches helped Pedroza edge Rocky Lockridge on points in October 1980. In their rematch, the Panamanian again won on points.

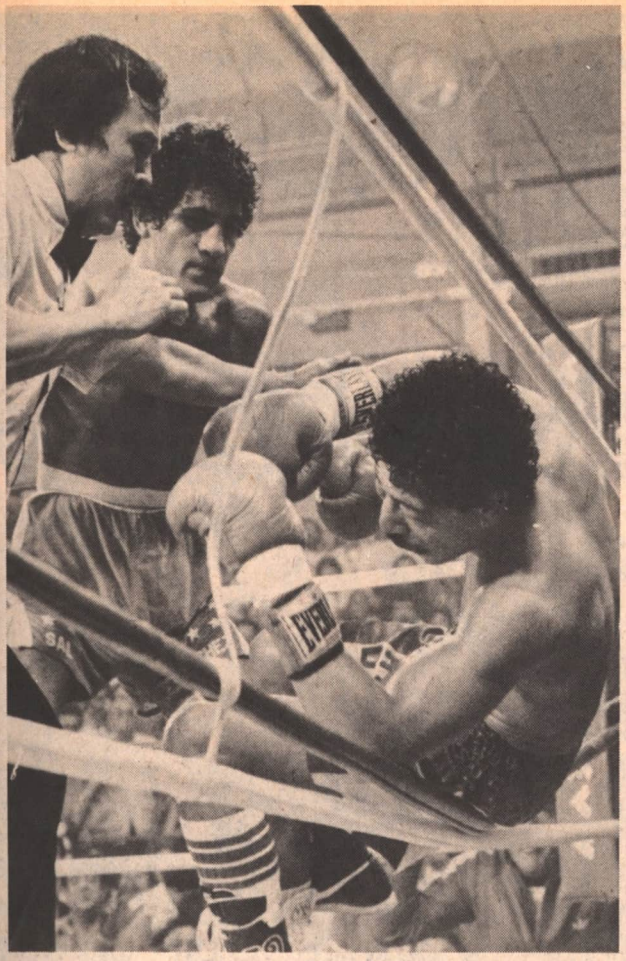
RUBEN CASTILLO

This is a rare classic matchup between two good boxers. Pedroza was very tall for a featherweight, and his height was accentuated by his standup style. He was a clever guy, a real cat-and-mouse type of fighter.

Sanchez had great mobility and head and body movement. I thought his greatest asset was his accuracy. He punched with pinpoint precision. He couldn't knock you out with one punch, but he'd wear you down, like Julio Cesar Chavez. He'd fight the 15th round like it was the first.

I can see Pedroza winning the first few rounds by using his physical advantages. But Sanchez was very smart. It wouldn't take him long to get to Pedroza. Once Pedroza would lose the momentum, he might resort to dirty tactics in an effort to ruffle Sanchez' feathers. But it wouldn't work because Sanchez had a poker face. Sal was so focused in what he was doing that he wouldn't even notice Pedroza sneaking in an elbow or low blow. Pedroza was good, and he had a strong chin, but he couldn't have beaten Sanchez. By dominating the second half of the fight, Sanchez would win by unanimous decision.

Ruben Castillo lost a 15-round title fight decision to Sanchez in 1980. He now works as a boxing analyst for Prime Ticket Network.



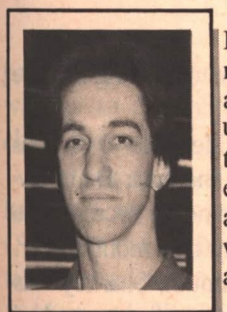
Sanchez' most spectacular and noteworthy defense was an upset eighth-round kayo of unbeaten junior featherweight champion Wilfredo Gomez in August 1981.

After Pedroza outpointed Juan LaPorte in January 1982, he was criticized for delivering dozens of low blows. Was the Panamanian indeed a dirty fighter?

BOB YALEN

Both fighters were well-schooled technically, as well as tactically. They both had a lot of experience and used their experience and intelligence to their advantage. Pedroza picked his spots well. He looped his punches, but he was a good counterpuncher and good bodypuncher, and he had a good chin.

Sanchez was not your typical Mexican brawler. He liked to feint a lot and keep his opponents off-balance. He was a great counterpuncher, and at his best when his opponents took the fight to him. He'd just pick them apart.



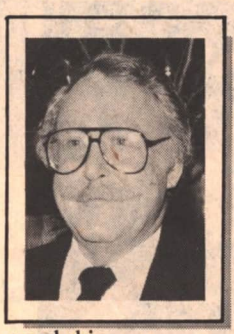
Sanchez was a slow starter, and Pedroza would win the first few rounds. He'd try to keep Sanchez at arm's length, but Sanchez would figure him out and start to come on in the middle rounds. Sanchez might even try to sucker Pedroza into firing an illegal blow or two, because this would close the distance between them and enable Sanchez to score.

Sanchez had the better stamina, and he didn't cut. He would be busier, and he'd come on strong in rounds 10 through 15. Pedroza wouldn't have enough to keep Sanchez off him. Sanchez by unanimous decision.

Bob Yalen is the boxing consultant for ABC-TV.

HOWIE ALBERT

This would have been a great fight. It's a shame it was never made. I thought they were both good champions, but they both would have lost to Willie Pep or Sandy Saddler. Sanchez was a fantastic boxer, one of the best of his era, but unfortunately, we'll never know how good he could have been. He had good movement, good defense, and was a good counterpuncher.

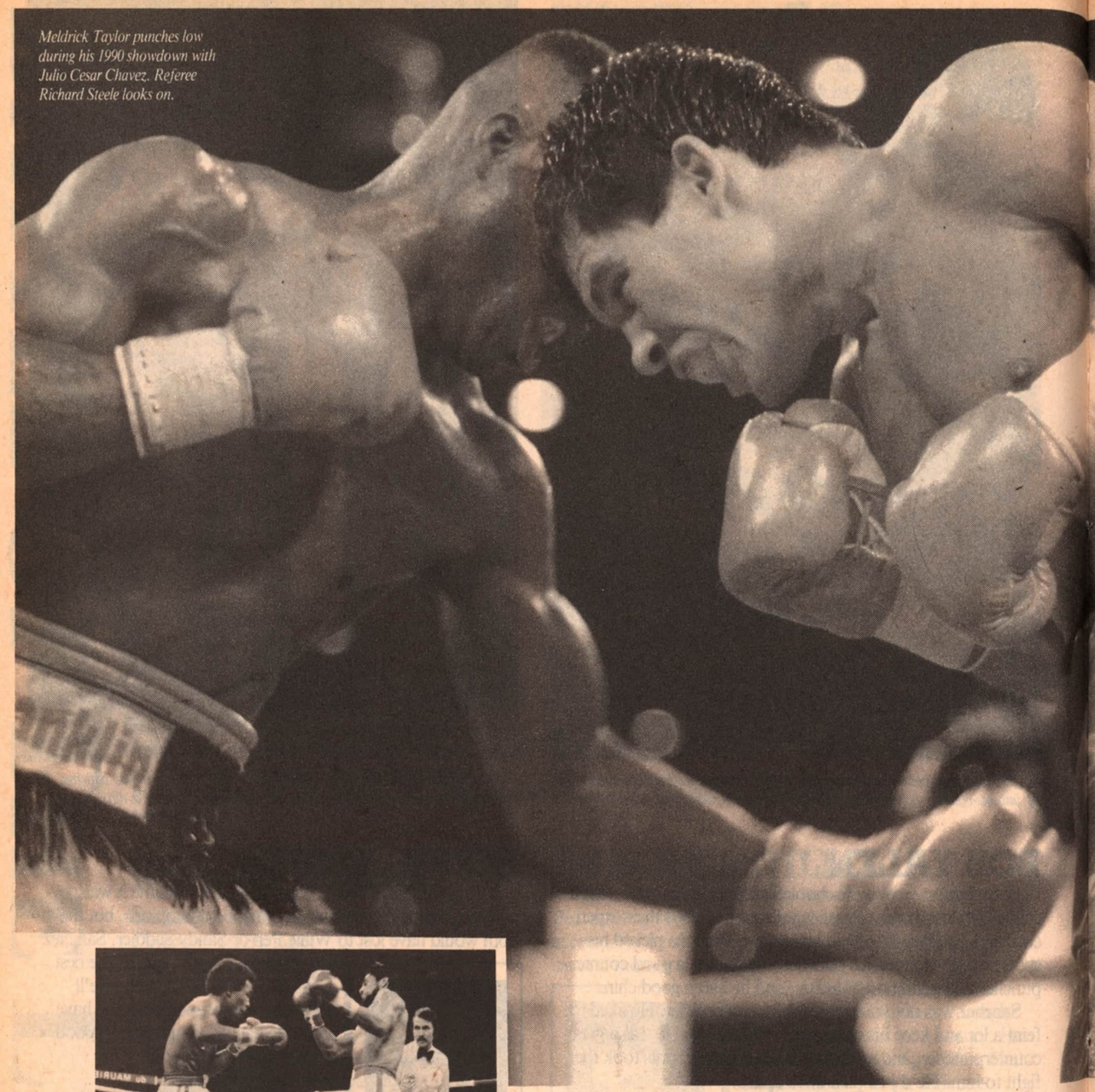


Pedroza was a dirty fighter. He didn't have to be, because he was a talented guy and a good champion. He wasn't much of a puncher, but he was a decent boxer with good speed and a good chin.

Sanchez, being a better ring technician, would control the tempo. He had a snap on the end of his punches that made you respect him. And he definitely would have gained Pedroza's respect.

Pedroza could outbox some guys, but there's no way he could have outboxed Sanchez. I see Sanchez getting the better of him from the opening bell. Sanchez would win a unanimous decision. And if Pedroza were forced to fight clean, Sanchez would win by a wide margin.

Howie Albert is the former manager of Juan LaPorte, who lost featherweight title fights to both Pedroza and Sanchez. ■



Meldrick Taylor punches low during his 1990 showdown with Julio Cesar Chavez. Referee Richard Steele looks on.

Referee Carlos Padilla eyes Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran during their welterweight title fight in June 1980.

A *RING* ANALYSIS:

BOXING'S BIG-FIGHT REFS DON'T DO THEIR JOBS

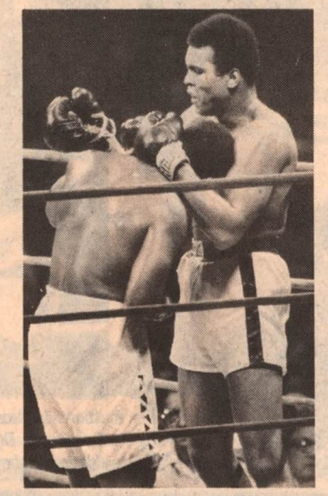
By Ed Maloney

Boxing fans can indirectly thank poor officiating for one of the sport's all-time controversies.

Had it not been for the referee's indifference to obvious low blows and other transgressions in the Jack Dempsey-Jack Sharkey fight of July 1927, there never would have been a long count in Dempsey's title fight rematch with Gene Tunney two months later.

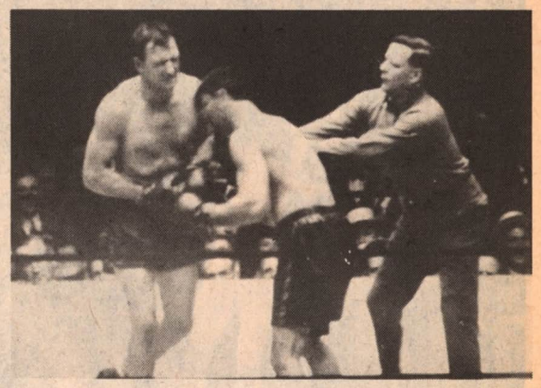
Cutting Dempsey above both eyes and bloodying his nose and mouth, Sharkey was dominating the former heavyweight champion. In response, Dempsey furiously worked the body, with more than a few of his shots landing low. Early in the seventh round, Sharkey complained to referee Jack O'Sullivan, who warned the former champion to raise his blows. But Dempsey continued his assault, both above and below Sharkey's beltline.

After absorbing another powerful low blow later in the seventh, Sharkey turned to complain to O'Sullivan. Dempsey seized the opportunity and dropped his opponent with a hook to the jaw. Sharkey lay on the canvas, holding his groin with one hand and his jaw with the other. O'Sullivan froze for a moment, not sure whether to disqualify Dempsey or give Sharkey a count. He chose the latter.



Ali-Frazier II lacked rhythm, partly because "The Greatest" spent much of the 12 rounds hanging on "Smokin' Joe's" neck.

Mike Tyson was guilty of various infractions during his 1989 kayo of Frank Bruno.



Jack Sharkey grimaces after absorbing a low blow from Jack Dempsey during their brawl in July 1927. The referee is Jack O'Sullivan.

The fight is listed in the record books as a seventh-round kayo win for Dempsey. There is no footnote explaining that O'Sullivan did nothing more than warn the former champion for repeated fouling.

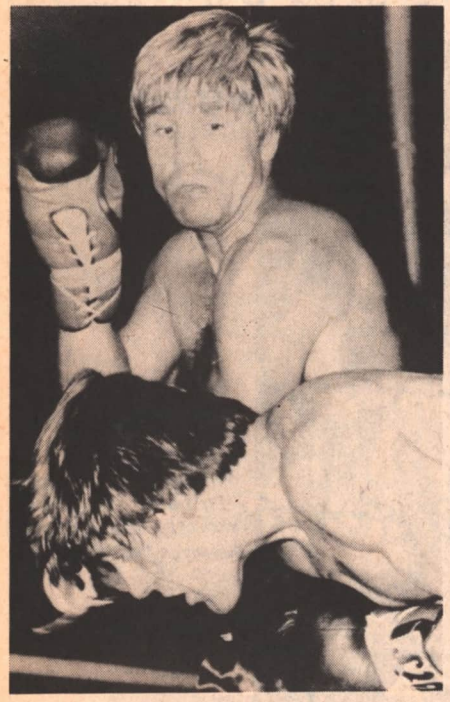
Afterward, Sharkey's manager, Johnny Buckley, complained about the poor officiating, but the fighter cut him off.

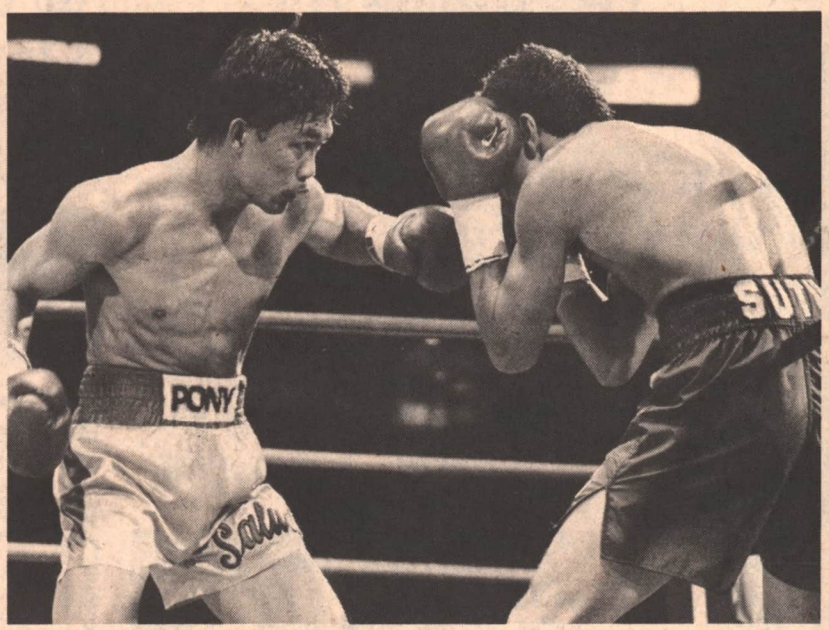
"Shut up," said Sharkey, "it's part of the game."

Unfortunately, little has changed in the way rules are enforced by most referees. In a sport where every competitor knows the dos and don'ts, referees remain far too lenient. Fighters, especially those with Dempsey's box-office popularity, receive warnings for

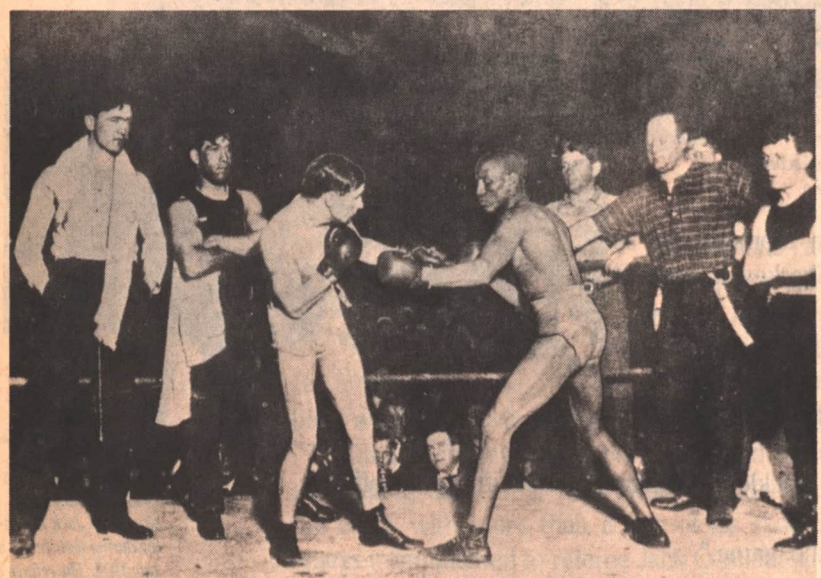
(Continued on page 59)

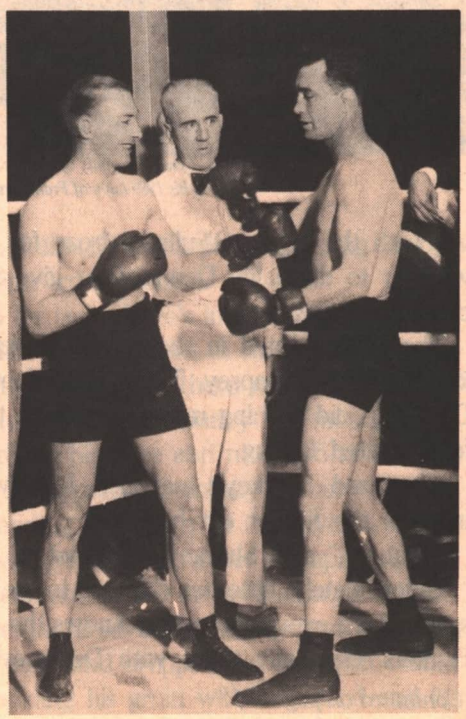
FAIR or FOUL?





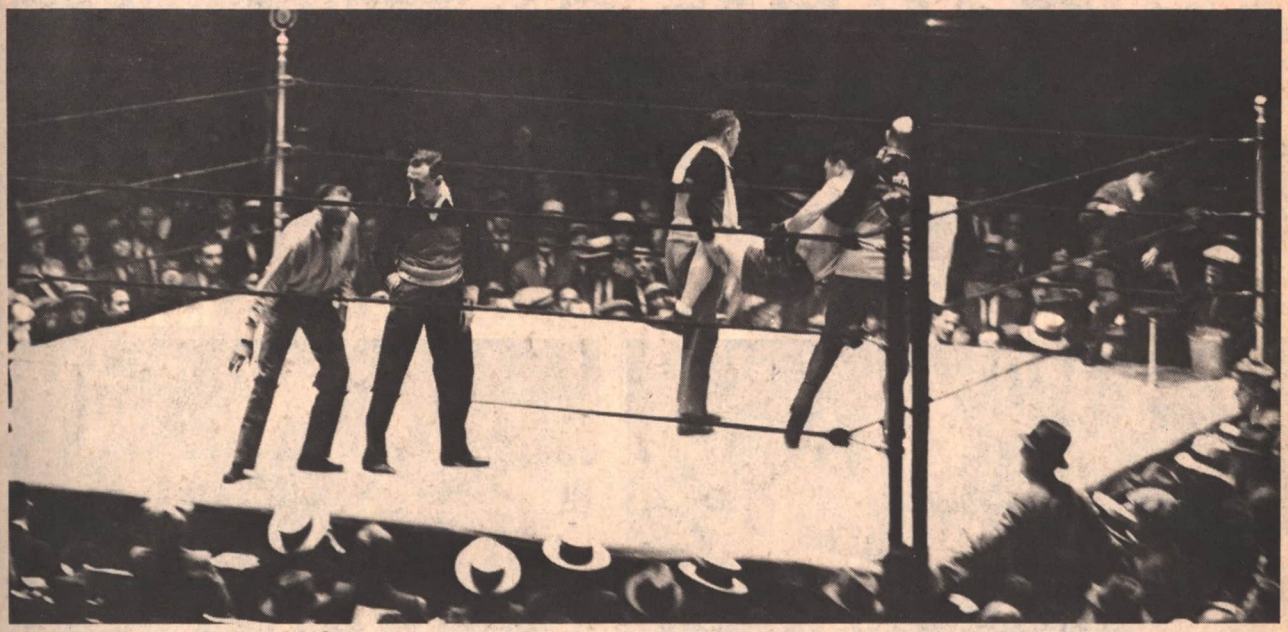
Above: In December 1989, Hawaii's Jesus Salud won the WBA junior featherweight crown when "Dynamita" Estrada was DQ'd in round nine for punching low. Left: Italy's Nino Benvenuti kept the world middleweight title in October 1969, when Fraser Scott was disqualified for butting in the seventh round.



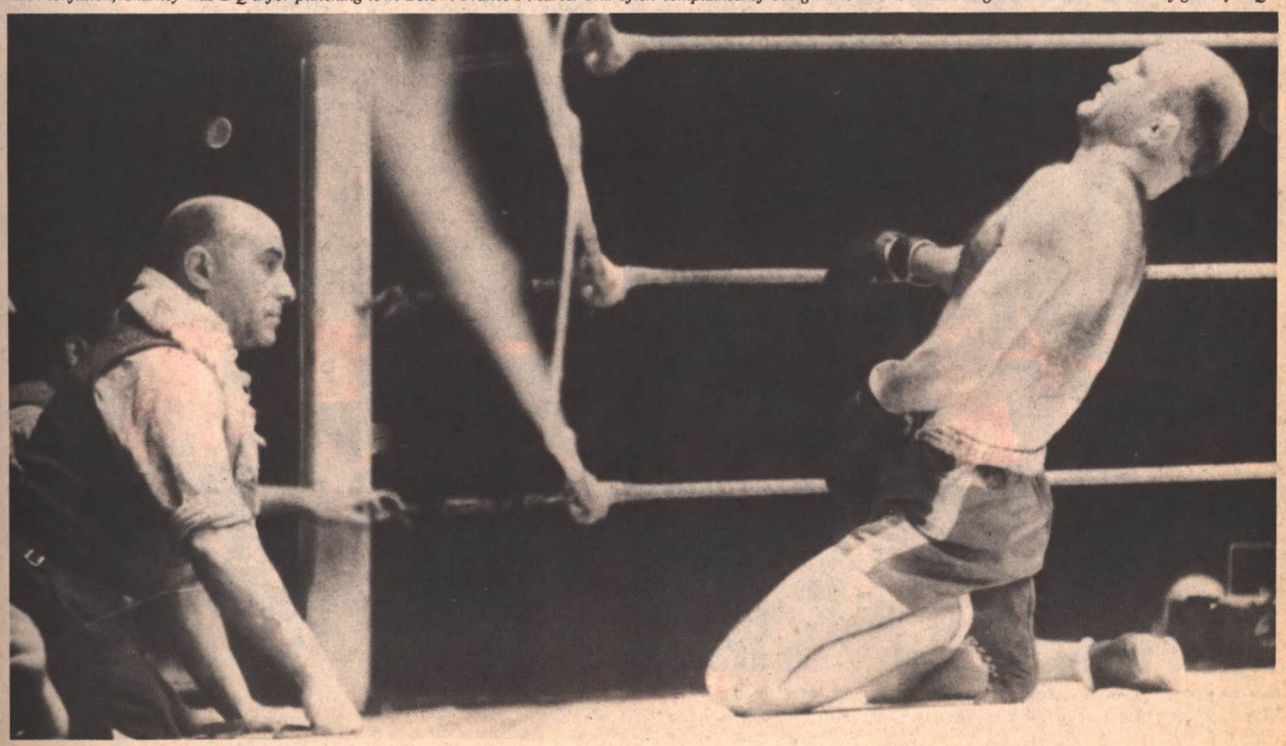


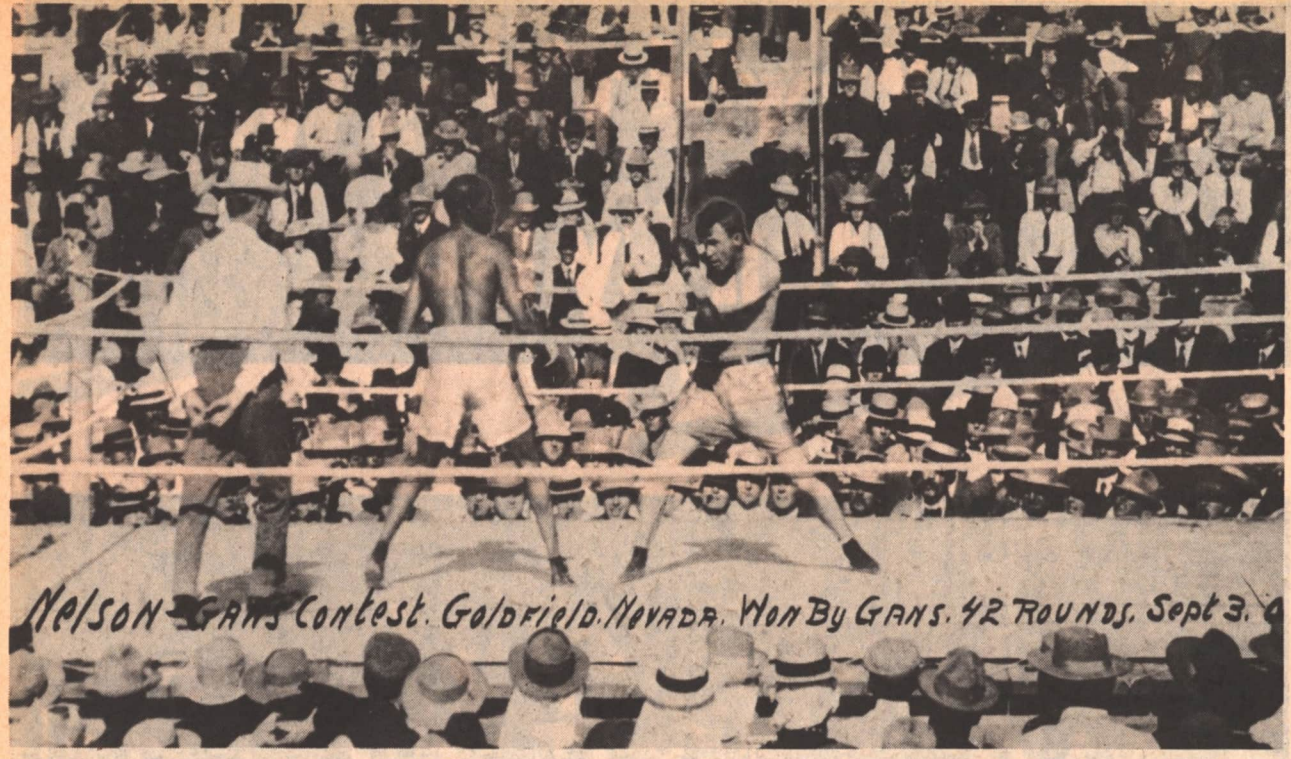
Above: In October 1904, the masterful Joe Gans retained the lightweight title by fifth-round foul vs. future champion Jimmy Britt. Right: Benny Leonard and welterweight champion Jack Britton square off before their title fight in June 1922. Leonard was DQ'd in round 13 for hitting Britton while the titlist was down.

When World Titles Were Won By DQ



Above: At Yankee Stadium in June 1930, Max Schmeling is carried to his corner in the fourth round of his battle vs. Jack Sharkey for the vacant heavyweight crown. After much confusion, Sharkey was DQ'd for punching low. Below: France's Marcel Thil often complained of being hit low. The middleweight won three world title fights by DQ.

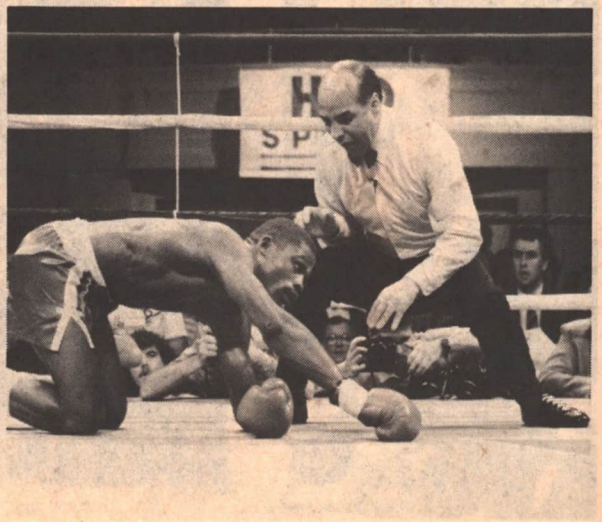




"Old Master" Joe Gans (left) regains the lightweight title via 42nd-round disqualification against Battling Nelson in September 1906. Defending champion Nelson, who often bent the rules, punched low once too often. Gans was clearly ahead at the time of referee George Siler's stoppage. It was the first bout in the Gans-Nelson trilogy.

Behind on points, Vinny Pazienza used a variety of illegal tactics against WBA junior welterweight champion Loreto Garza in December 1990. Paz was DQ'd in round 11.

Above: In the first 108-pound title fight, newly crowned Franco Udella is carried from the ring after being hit low by Valentin Martinez in April 1975. Below: In July 1988, WBA welterweight champion Marlon Starling was kayoed by Tomas Molinares after the bell ending round six. The final ruling: no-decision.



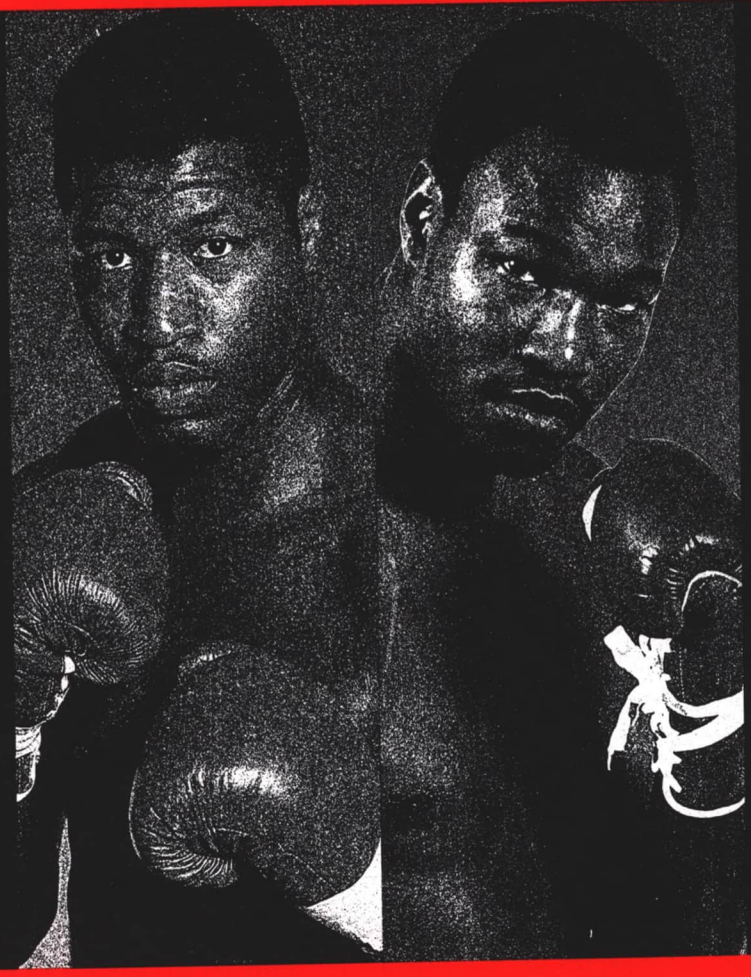
TVKO FIGHT OF THE MONTH

WBO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION
"MERCILESS" RAY

MERCER VS HOLMES

FORMER WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION
L A R R Y

After his vicious knockout of Tommy Morrison, he's out to prove *HE'S* the real deal.



Can the legendary ex-champ keep his comeback on track as he faces his greatest challenge?

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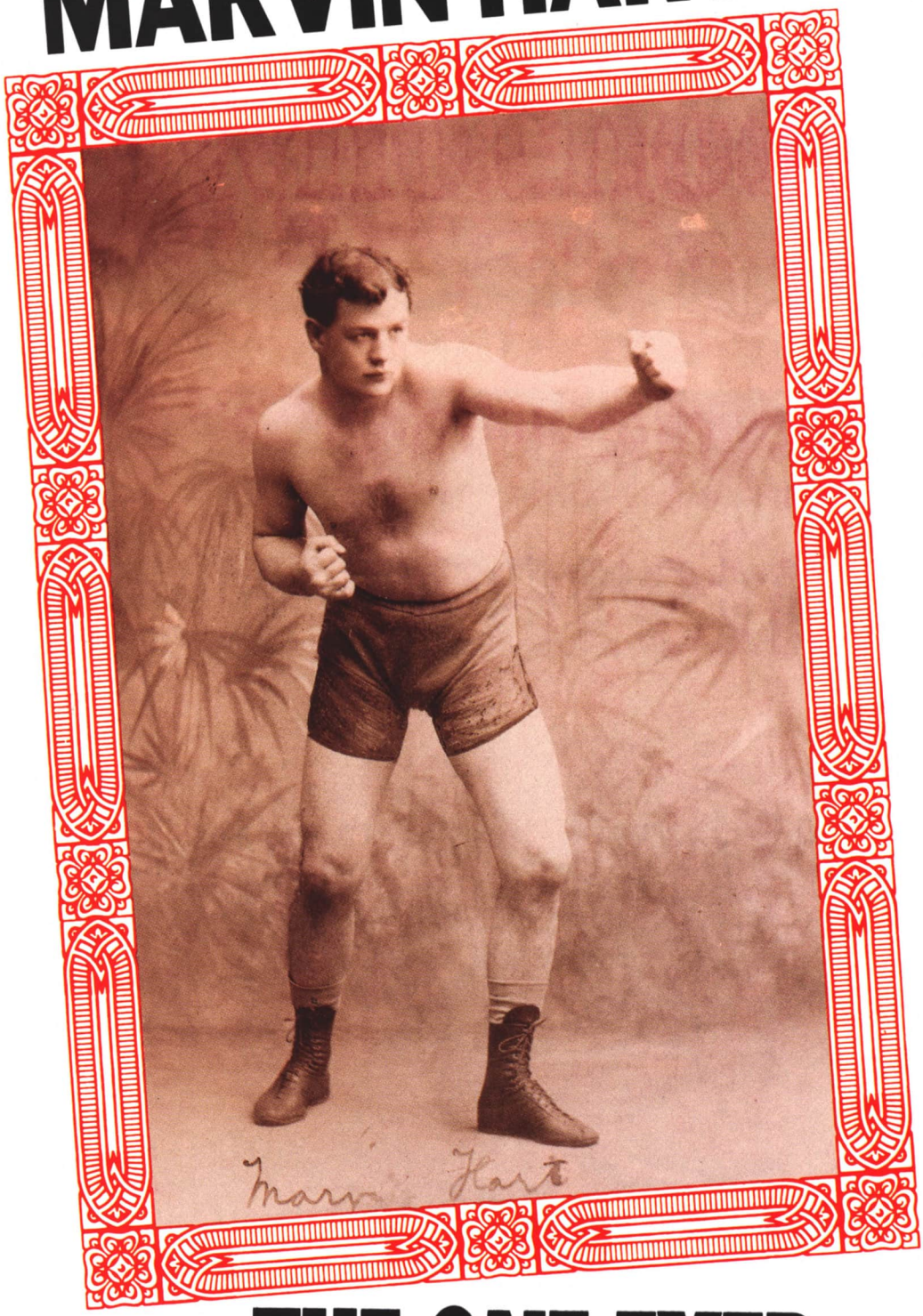
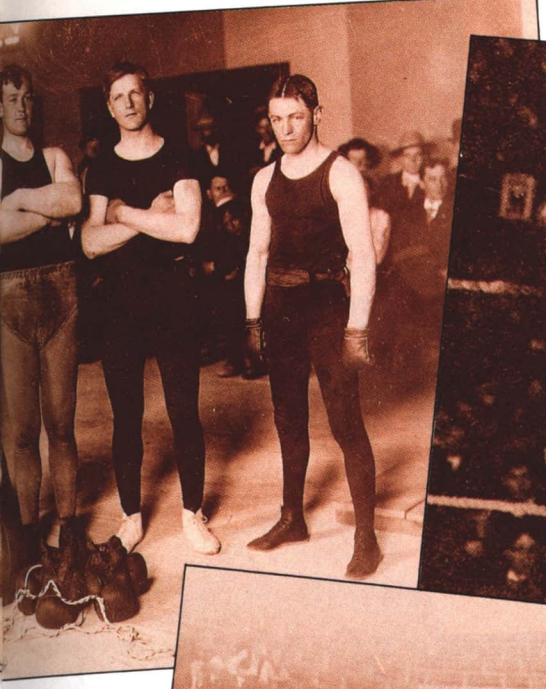
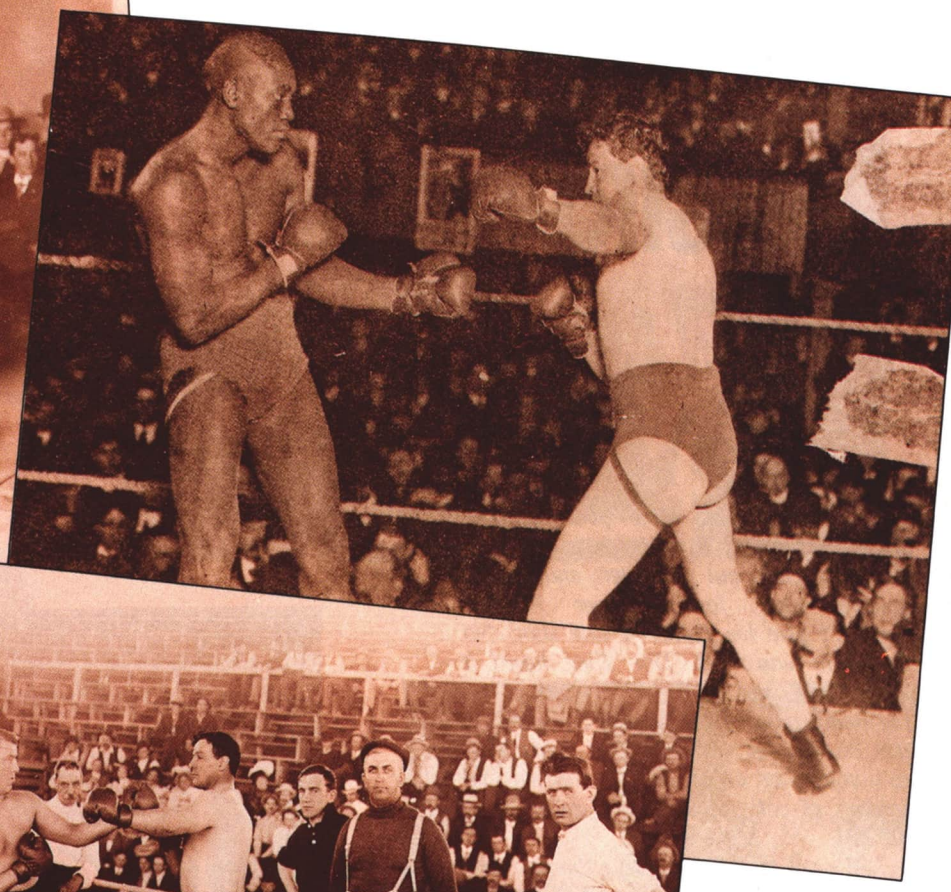
MARVIN HART:

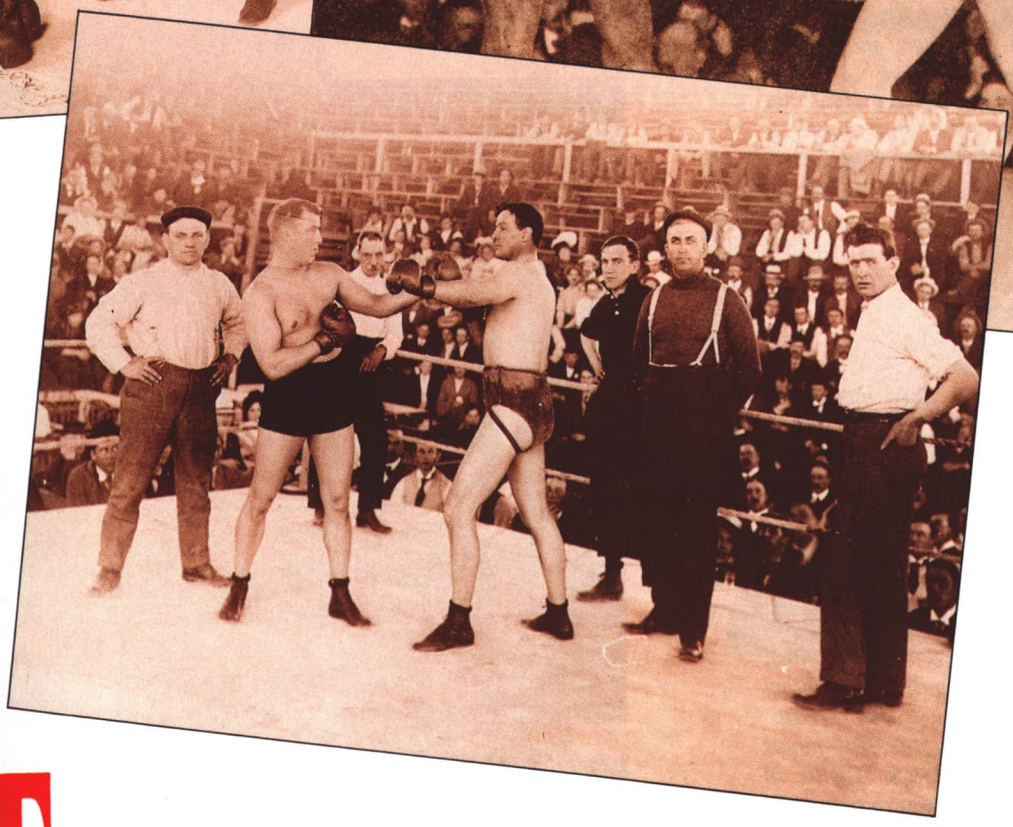


Hart, center, with his entourage before his 1907 battle with Mike Schreck (above). Hart and Schreck pose before the fight (right). The Kentuckian's most impressive win was a 20-round decision over future champion Jack Johnson in March 1905 (above right). Two fights later, Hart was the world heavyweight champion.

THE ONE-EYED HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION







The year was 1905, the scene Reno, Nevada. Under a broiling July sun, Marvin Hart, a 5'11¼", 190-pound brawler from Jefferson County, Kentucky, was committing mayhem on former light heavyweight champion Jack Root. At stake was fistiana's biggest prize, the heavyweight championship of the world.

Jim Jeffries had reigned supreme as heavyweight king from 1899 to 1904, when, after flattening Jack Munroe in two rounds, he retired. As was the custom, he was allowed to choose the fighters who would contend for the vacant crown. Jeffries chose Hart and Root. It was generally agreed that the winner would be recognized as Jeff's successor.

Root had managed, by sheer guts, to survive 11 pain-ridden rounds. Now it was the 12th, and Hart's big fists were whirling, tormenting instruments of butchery that ripped

(Continued on page 52)

THE BUDDY McGIRT SHOW

The New Champ Gives Himself A Rave Review

For the past three years, Buddy McGirt has listened to his manager, Al Certo, curse out promoters and matchmakers who, for whatever reasons, wouldn't give his fighter a title shot. No one went unscathed. Don King heard it from Certo, and so did Bobby Goodman, the matchmaker for Madison Square Garden Boxing, for whom McGirt fights. Certo's voice was always highly charged and strident as colorful invectives spilled from his lips.

"Al's got his way of doing things," said McGirt, the newly crowned WBC welterweight champion. "And while there were times I wished he hadn't said certain things, I knew he was on my side. So I never argued with him."

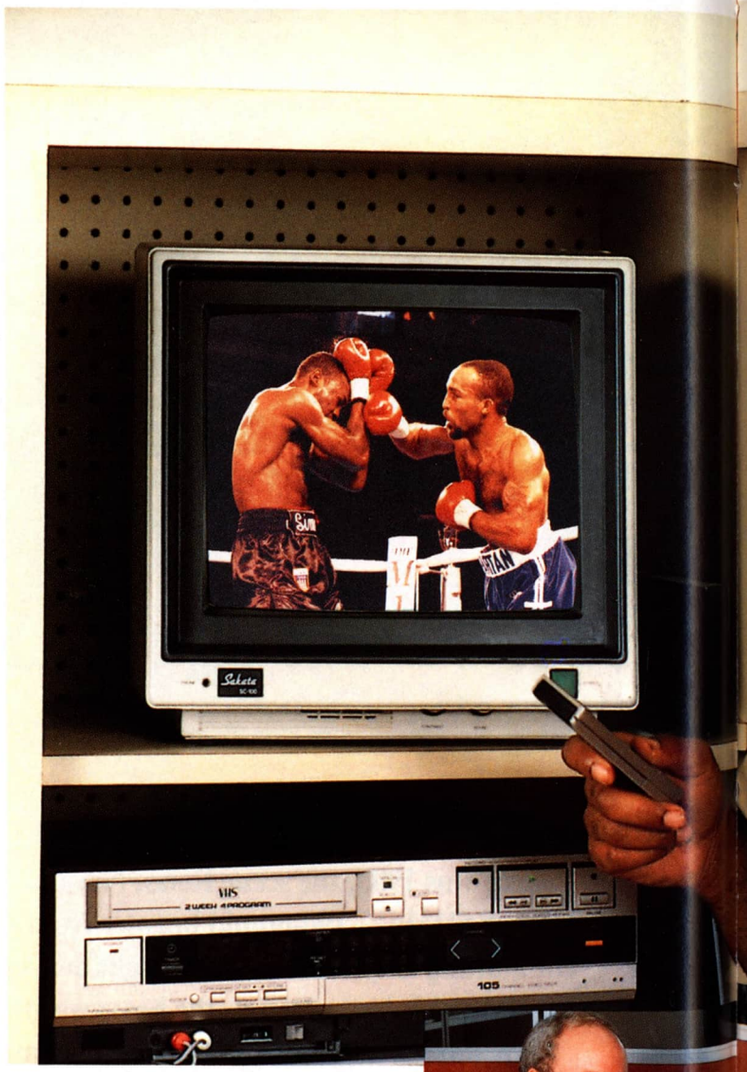
Unlike most fighters who wait for a title fight, McGirt kept busy. He fought anytime, anywhere, and against anyone. And when he tore a bicep tendon in his left arm in a July 1990 fight against Jose Bermudez, he took complete rest for four months, returned to the gym, and was fighting again by January. In all, he's won 17 consecutive bouts since losing the IBF junior welterweight title to Meldrick Taylor in September 1988.

For 12 rounds in November, McGirt dazzled ringsiders—and defending titlist Simon Brown—with an almost flawless display of boxing.

"I took out all my frustration on Simon," said the 28-year-old McGirt, who is 55-2-1 (43).

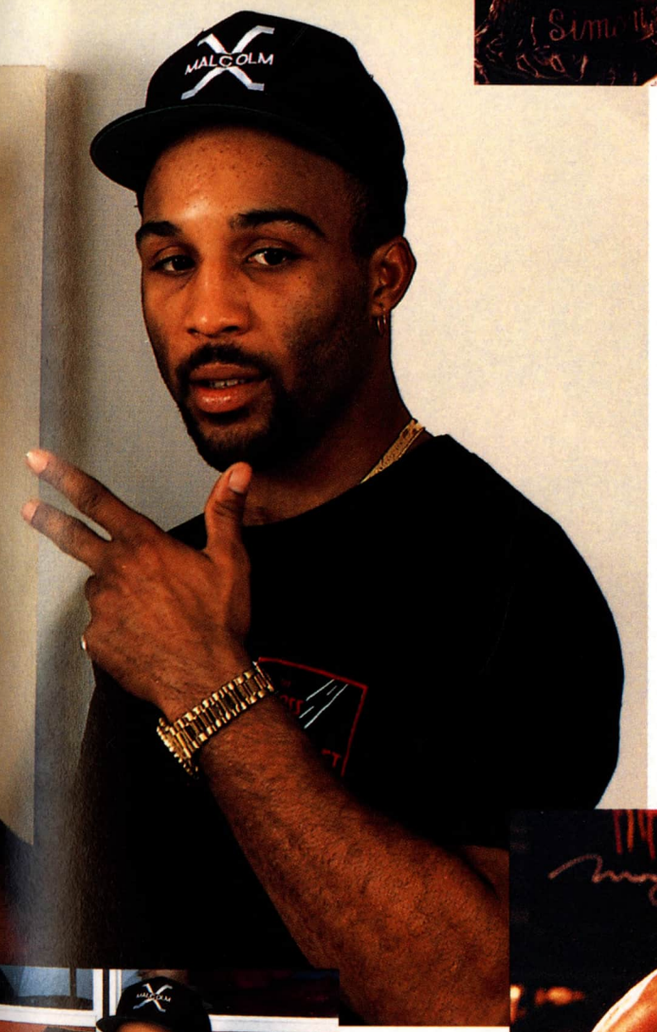
After returning home to Hauppauge, New York, McGirt visited the offices of ***The Ring*** *and spoke with Associate Editor Joseph C. Tintle, who covered the fighter's pro debut in March 1982 and has chronicled his entire career. As they reviewed a tape of the Brown-McGirt bout, McGirt explained his strategies, his thoughts, and his feelings during the biggest fight of his career. What follows is a round-by-round account, in the fighter's own words.*

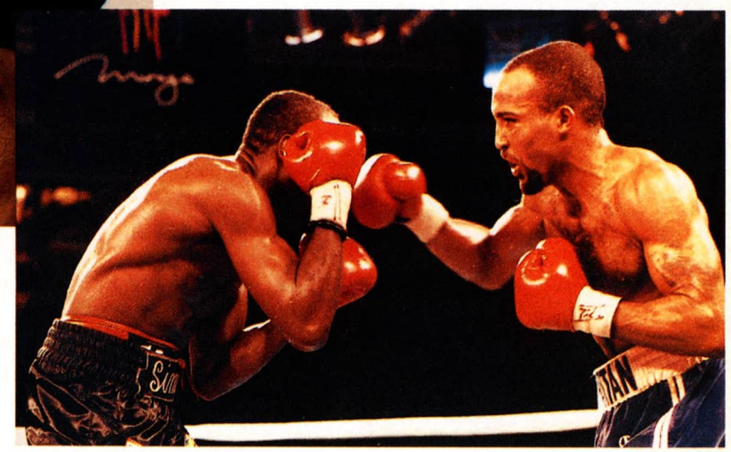
(Continued on page 54)



At the offices of ***The Ring,*** *McGirt and Associate Editor Joseph C. Tintle watched a tape of the newly crowned welterweight champion's masterful title-winning performance vs. Simon Brown. McGirt offered astute round-by-round analysis.*

Photos By Al Bello & David Lee Waite





The RING

STANLEY KETCHEL
VS.
JACK JOHNSON

October 16, 1909
Colma, California
For The Heavyweight Championship Of The World

Johnson Winner By Knockout In Round 12

Jack Johnson
Champion

Stanley Ketchel
Challenger

JAMES TONEY SURVIVES MIKE McCALLUM

Photos By Al Bello

Will He Be The Middleweight Of The '90s?

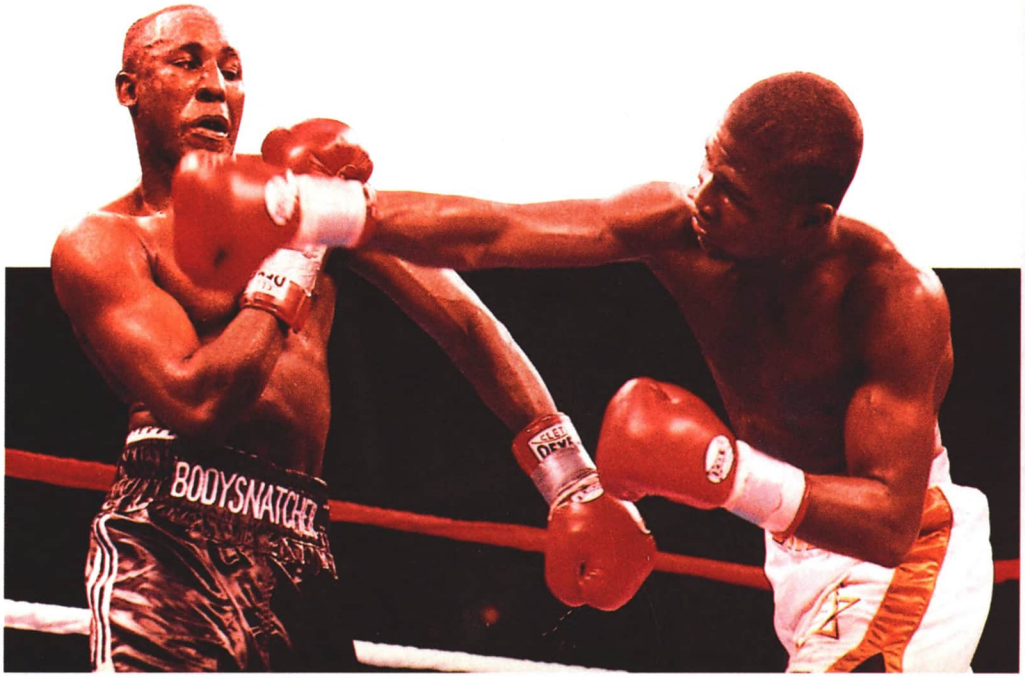
By Robert Cassidy

Sorry folks, but whether it's fair or not, a goodie-two-shoes champion just doesn't do the same thing for boxing as a controversial one. And at the moment, the sport is devoid of controversial fighters, champions or otherwise. Outside of Mike Tyson, who will soon find out if his career gets put on hold for the next 63 years, there aren't many fighters who can hold the sport's bloodthirsty followers in thrall.

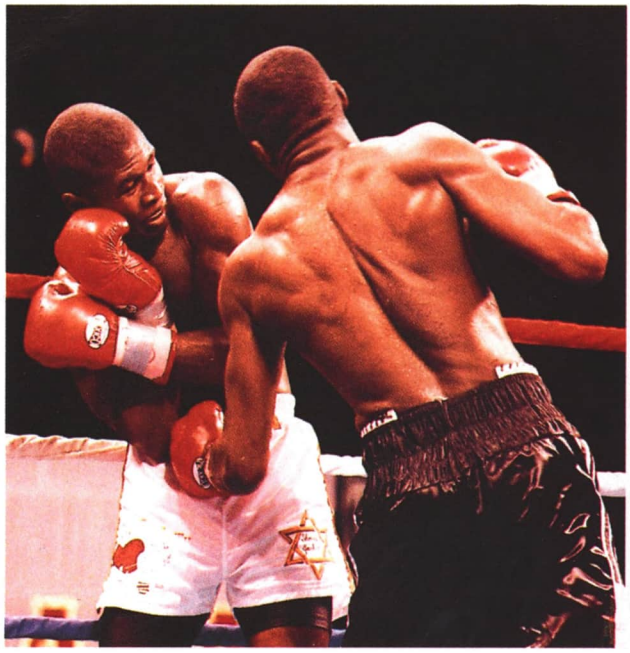
But there is hope. Making a serious run for the position of boxing's newest badboy is IBF middleweight champion James "Lights Out" Toney. He has the type of personality people are attracted to, like one of those smiling gangsters with a big heart, and a glare that can scare a switchblade back into its casing. Similar to boxing's mystical conquerors of the past, Toney is reveled and feared in equal proportion. Here are several examples:

- When Toney collapsed from exhaustion after coming from behind and knocking out Michael Nunn to win the IBF title last May, everyone wanted to help him to his feet.
- When Toney, dressed in black from head to toe, stormed off the stage after an intense weigh-in staredown with Mike McCallum, everyone ran for cover.
- When Toney, after going 12 vicious rounds with McCallum, had to be physically restrained from tearing the limbs off McCallum's bespectacled lawyer at the postfight press conference, everyone wanted to call in the National Guard.
- When Toney pays the way for six-year-old Elizabeth Steelman, who has spina bifida, to attend all his fights, everyone wants to reach out and shake his hand.

Clearly, Toney is a man who inspires many different emotions. But when he steps into the ring, the focus is on his performance. Boxing's code of ethics is often shaped by the combatants, and fighting under whatever terms, he's performed beyond all expectations. In doing so, he's consistently produced drama and excitement.



Toney and McCallum left nothing in reserve, trading tirelessly for 12 exciting rounds. Most ringside observers thought Toney did enough to deserve the decision.



That, above everything else, is why he's so compelling. And that is why he just might be the middleweight of the '90s.

"James has a very volatile temper," said his manager, Jackie Kallen. "It's not necessarily an asset. He's a very intense person, and that's part of his desire and will to win. That's what works in the ring.

"I want him to be a gentleman all the time, but he's a very angry young man. With James, what you see is what you get. If he's angry, you see it. He can't be something he isn't, and I respect that. He has a lot of hostility in him."

Toney released his hostility and anger on McCallum in a stirring 12-rounder that marked the first great middleweight fight of the decade. When they dueled at the Atlantic City Convention Center in December, it was one of those rare occasions when a fight actually lived up to its hype.

McCallum, a two-time world champion, came into the showdown with only one loss in 43 fights. He avenged that loss, a 12-round decision against then-WBA champion Sumbu Kalambay in 1988, in his only other title fight of 1991. Conversely, Toney, who at 24 is 11 years younger than McCallum, had a very busy '91. He beat contenders Merqui Sosa, Reggie Johnson, and Francesco Dell'Aquila, as well as Nunn. Remember, though, this is boxing, and with every rose comes a thorn.

Shortly before the fight, the WBA tarnished the event by stripping McCallum of its middleweight title. The WBA initially agreed to sanction the bout if McCallum paid a $75,000 step-aside fee to placate WBA mandatory challenger Steve Collins, who had lost a decision to the champion in February 1990. McCallum complied. But when the organization's head honchos demanded an additional $50,000 in step-aside fees, McCallum told them that the WBA belt wasn't *that* important. And it certainly wasn't worth detracting $125,000 from a career-high

$500,000 purse. (Toney earned $475,000.)

But even without the WBA title on the line, in the eyes of most experts the winner of Toney-McCallum would emerge as the division's top champion. Here's why: Toney had knocked out Michael Nunn, previously acknowledged as the world's top 160-pounder, and McCallum had knocked out WBC champion Julian Jackson in a 154-pound title fight in 1986. Belt or no belt, these were the two best middleweights in the world.

Now, get ready for thorn number two: After 12 brilliant rounds of action, the fight was judged a draw. Gary Merritt scored 116-112 for Toney, Tom Kaczmarek saw McCallum as a 115-113 winnner, and Robert Cox scored 114-114. *(The Ring* scored 115-114 for Toney.)

"No one wants to see this," promoter Bob Arum said of the draw. "Kaczmarek is not corrupt, he's just inept."

For Toney, the draw was just as good as a win. He retained the IBF title, and, after the fight, was presented with a Marvelous Marvin Hagler championship trophy. Hagler, the dominant middleweight champion of the 1980s, and Jake LaMotta, a middleweight legend of the 1950s, both observed the fight from ringside, which was appropriate because Toney is part-Hagler, part-LaMotta, and, against McCallum, even part *McCallum.*

Toney, 28-0-2 (20), was able to jab when he had to jab, box when he had to box, and brawl when he had to brawl. It was the first time in recent fights that he was able to demonstrate such diversity. And it is perhaps the main reason why he represents the future of the division.

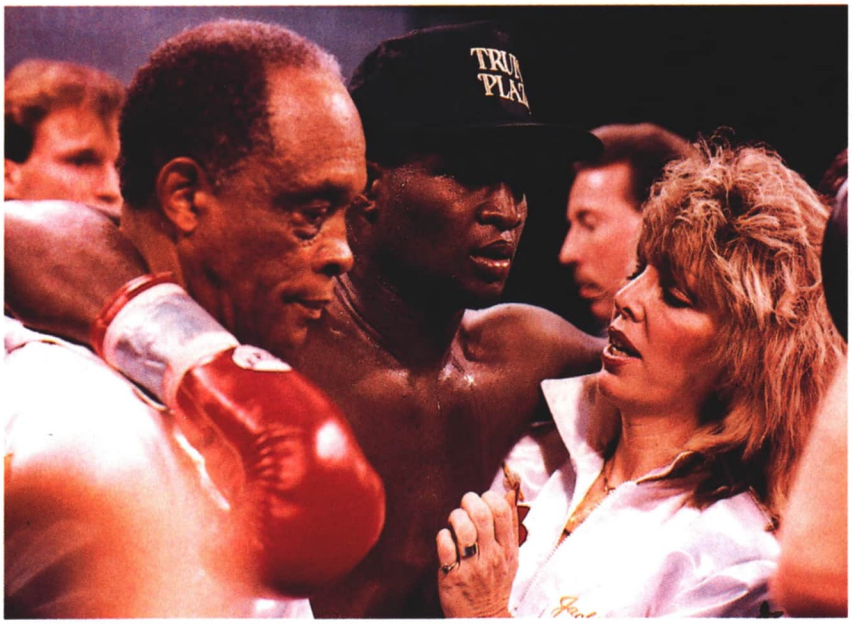
McCallum, a boxing textbook, slipped and slid past Toney in the early rounds, popping the young champion with jabs and counters. But to the surprise of most ringsiders, Toney was able to adjust. He remained relaxed and focused, and by the middle rounds was able to draw McCallum into a more aggressive fight.

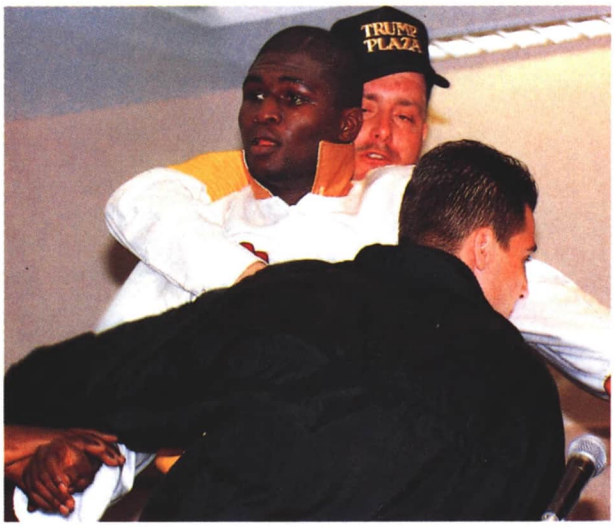
"I was surprised [McCallum] took so much," said Toney. "He's a tricky old guy. I learned a lot from him."

Even though McCallum has always been a brilliant, yet underrated, ring technician, he could not settle into a

(Continued on page 52)

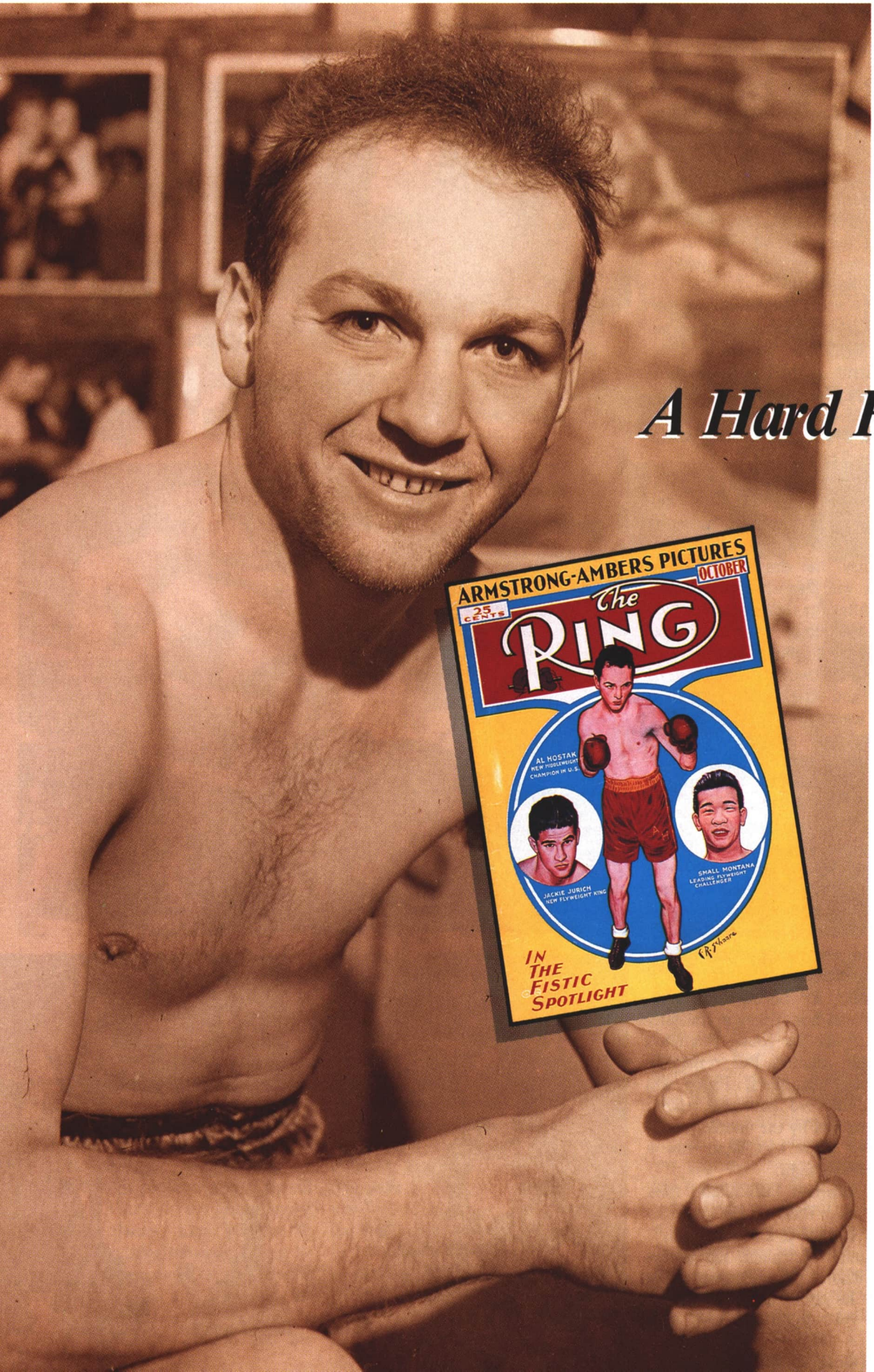
An exhausted Toney with trainer Bill Miller and manager Jackie Kallen after the final bell had sounded.

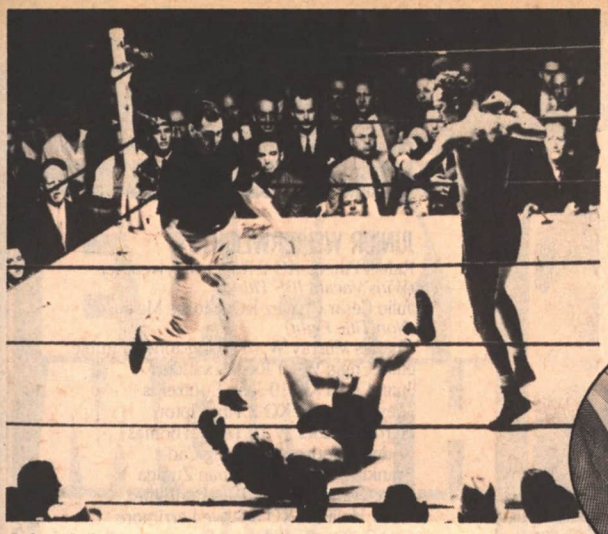




At the postfight press conference, Toney had to be restrained from going after McCallum's lawyer, who vehemently expressed his view that his client had won (left). A few moments later, Toney was presented with the Marvelous Marvin Hagler championship trophy (below).

A Hard Hitter





Referee Jack Dempsey rushes toward Freddie Steele as Al Hostak admires his work. Hostak won the NBA middleweight title by first-round kayo.

Hostak weighs in for his June 1937 rematch with Solly Krieger (below), as former heavyweight champion Jim Braddock, who refereed the bout, looks on. A terrific puncher, Hostak scored a fourth-round kayo (right).

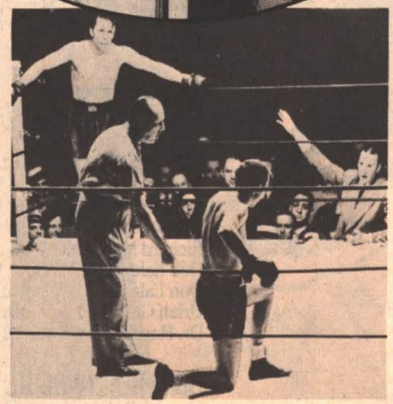
Who Hit Hard Luck

By Marty Carson & Steve Farhood

Engage a boxing fan in a conversation concerning middleweights and the talk will invariably turn to punchers. Among them will be Stanley Ketchel, who kayoed heavyweights, Rocky Graziano, who climbed through the ropes with nothing but a right hand and a lot of guts, and Sugar Ray Robinson, who finished Gene Fullmer with the most perfect punch ever thrown. If the fan is hard-core, he might remember Ceferino Garcia, the bolo-punching Filipino, Tony Zale and his ferocious body blows, maybe even Hurricane Carter and Cyclone Hart. And if he's up on today's tigers, he'll mention Julian Jackson, the most dangerous one-punch bomber in the ring.

From the birth of the division 107 years ago, you see, middleweights and punchers have been synonymous. It's ironic, then, that all but a precious few fans have forgotten Al Hostak, perhaps the hardest-punching 160-pounder of all. After Jack Dempsey observed Hostak's 103-second upset kayo of Freddie Steele in an up-close-and-personal way—he served as the fight's referee—the former heavyweight champion exclaimed, "He's one of the greatest hitters I ever saw in my life!" But Hostak was ultimately betrayed by broken and battered hands, as well as a broken spirit, and his stay at the top was all too brief.

(Continued on page 63)



Hostak lost to Tony Zale in all three of their brutal encounters. Zale scored a 13th-round kayo in their second meeting (left) and won the NBA crown. Former lightweight great Benny Leonard is tolling the count. Hostak today at age 76 (below).

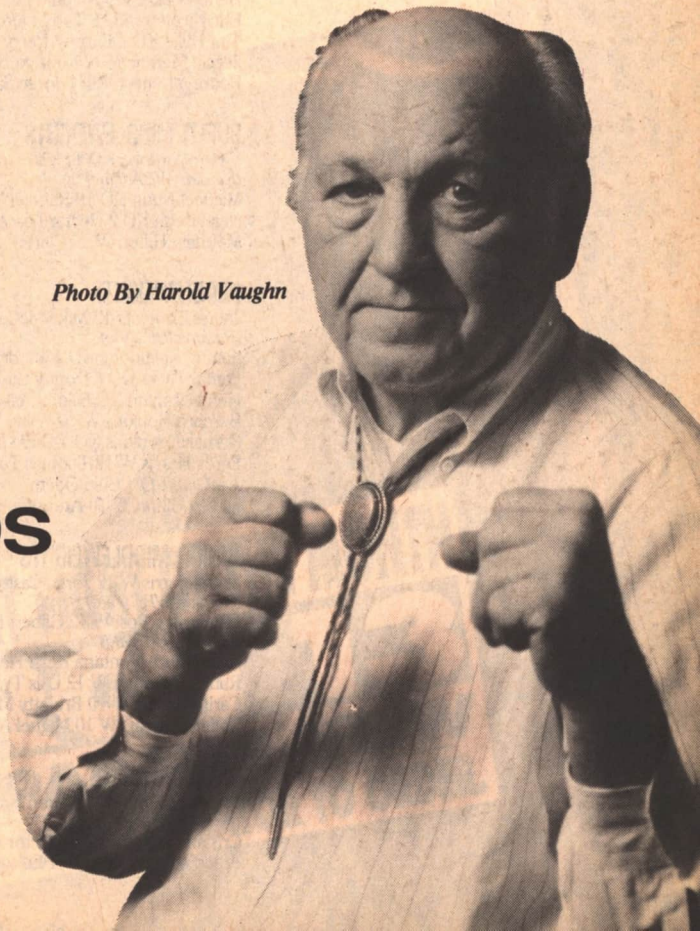


Photo By Harold Vaughn

HOW BAD HANDS SHATTERED AL HOSTAK'S DREAMS

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Evander Holyfield KO 7 Bert Cooper
(Retains WBA & IBF Titles)
Riddick Bowe KO 4 Elijah Tillery
George Foreman KO 3 Jimmy Ellis
Lennox Lewis KO 3 Tyrell Biggs
Michael Moorer KO 1 Bobby Crabtree
Michael Dokes W 8 John Wesley Morton
Greg Page KO 1 Joey Christjohn
Craig Petersen W 12 Jimmy Thunder
Dave Dixon KO 1 Mike Acey
Corrie Sanders KO 1 Art Card
James Tillis W 10 Danny Blake

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Anaclet Wamba KO 11 Massimiliano Duran
(Retains WBC Title)
Al Cole KO 6 Govoner Chavers
Dennis Andries KO 4 Ed Neblett
Orlin Norris W 10 James Pritchard
Dwight Qawi KO 9 Rickey Parkey
Richard Mason KO 1 Young Joe Louis
Don Lalonde KO 3 Dave Fiddler
Don Lalonde KO 4 David Bates
Uriah Grant KO 2 Francisco Martinez
Dr. Harold Reitman D 10 Tim Anderson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Vincent Boulware KO 5 Melvin Ricks
Henry Maske KO 8 Tom Collins
Eric Nicoletta KO 8 Tony LaRosa
Tim Hillie KO 2 Earnest Perry
Sergio Merani W 12 Rodrigo Benech
Rodrigo Benech KO 7 Jorge Salgado

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Victor Cordoba KO 11 Vincenzo Nardiello
(Retains WBA Title)
Michael Nunn KO 10 Randall Yonker
Nigel Benn KO 2 Hector Lescano
Matthew Hilton W 10 Clarence White

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
James Toney D 12 Mike McCallum
(Retains IBF Title)
Sumbu Kalambay KO 4 Miodrag Perunovic
Lamar Parks KO 6 Donny Giron
Herol Graham KO 6 John Ashton
Bernard Hopkins W 10 Willie Kemp
Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Dave McCluskey
Percy Harris W 12 Thomas Tate
Joe Gatti KO 1 Glen Odem
Davey Hilton W 10 Anthony Ivory

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris W 12 Jorge Castro
(Retains WBC Title)
Gianfranco Rosi W 12 Gilbert Baptist
(Retains IBF Title)
Jean-Claude Fontana KO 2 Hector Guzman
Ruben Villaman W 12 Luis Tyson Vasquez
Carlos Santos W 10 Brinatty Maquillon
Rollin Williams W 10 Miguel Angel Dominguez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Buddy McGirt W 12 Simon Brown
(Wins WBC Title)
Crisanto Espana KO 7 Hector Hugo Vilte
Freddie Pendleton KO 1 Edison Martinez
Santos Cardona W 10 David Taylor
Manning Galloway W 12 Nika Khumalo
Kevin Pompey W 10 Fernando Sanchez
Yuri Boy Campas KO 2 Greg Dixon
Robert Wangila W 10 Martin Quiroz
Patrizio Oliva W 10 Jose Luis Saldivia
Darryl Lattimore W Disq. 3 Calvin Moody
Michael Ward W 10 Rafael Williams
Grahame Cheney KO 3 Attila Fogas

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Rafael Pineda KO 9 Roger Mayweather
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 4 Jorge Melian
(Non-Title Fight)
Charles Murray W 10 Livingstone Bramble
Juan Coggi W 10 Joe Alexander
Juan Coggi KO 10 Juan Contreras
Joey Gamache KO 2 Tim Tipton
Harold Brazier W 10 Terry Thomas
Rodney Moore KO 5 Greg Cadiz
Frankie Randall KO 4 Juan Zuniga
Felix Trinidad W 10 Jake Rodriguez
Andy Holligan KO 8 Steve Larrimore
Carl Griffith W 10 Roger Brown
Vince Phillips KO 6 Jesus Rojas
Donald Stokes KO 2 Juan Carlos Alvarado

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Darryll Tyson KO 4 Tomas Quinones
Fidel Avendano W 10 Maximino Llano
Eduardo Molina W 10 Felipe Caceres
Rafael Ruelas KO 2 Juan De La Paz
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 6 Juan Soberanes
Antonio Renzo KO 6 Carl Crook
Kamel Bou-Ali W 8 Ben Martinez
Chad Broussard KO 1 Gregg Harrell
Fabian Tejeda W 10 Juan Contreras
Eusebio Pedroza W 10 Tomas Rodriguez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Genaro Hernandez KO 9 Daniel Londas
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Eugene Speed KO 3 Alberto Mercado
Regilio Tuur W 10 Bobby Brewer
Gabriel Ruelas KO 1 Ascencion Lugo
Jerry N'Gobeni D 8 Danny Myburgh
Paul Harvey W 12 Sugar Gibiliru
Paul Harvey KO 3 Hugh Forde

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Fabrice Benichou KO 10 Vincenzo Limatola
Harold Rhodes KO 1 Brad Savage
Seiji Asakawa KO 6 Ric Bajelot
Barrington Francis W 12 Steve Thibodeaux
Miguel Francia W 10 Lucio Lopez

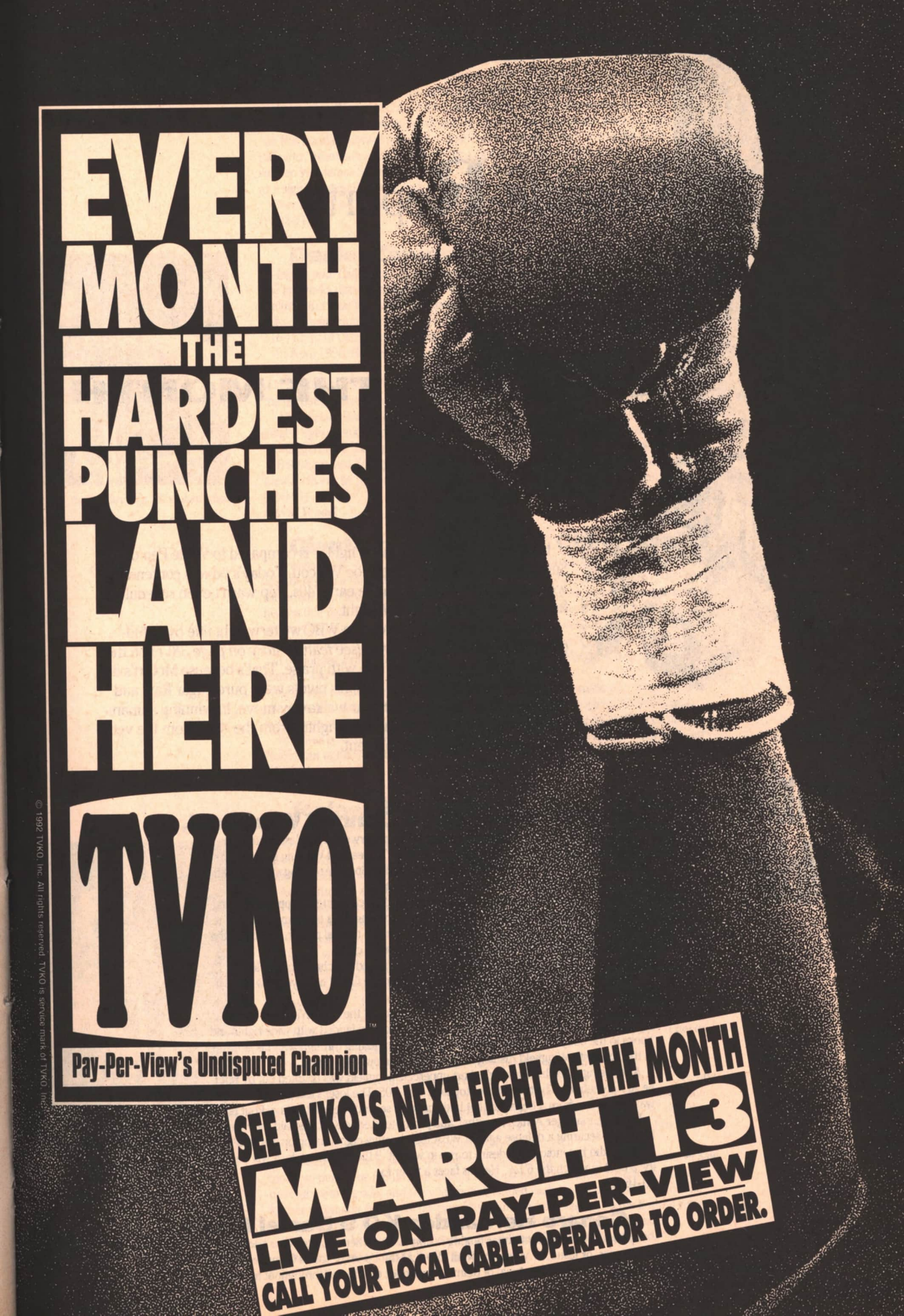
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Paul Banke
(Retains WBC Title)
Baby Sugar Rojas W 12 Jerome Coffee
Hiroaki Yokota W 10 Noree Jockygym
Kennedy McKinney W 8 Maximilliano Gomez
Virgilio Openo KO 9 Eddy Younan

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Junior Jones KO 9 Dio Andujar
Eliecer Julio W 10 Manuel Ariza
Javier Leon W 10 Miguel Pina

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay KO 7 Romero Opriasa
Carlos Mercado KO 5 Daniel Batista
Gerry Penalosa KO 4 Roger Vecera
Nana Konadu W 12 Juan Polo Perez
Elvis Alvarez KO 4 Emilio Camarilla
Cecelio Espino W 10 Steve Mwema
Katsuya Onizuka KO 7 Chan Woo Park
Esteban Ayala Tech. Dec. 5 Abner Barajas

FLYWEIGHTS
Yuri Arbachakov KO 5 Shun Hazama
Jonathan Penalosa KO 3 Hak Myung Kim
Salvatore Fanni W 12 James Drummond
Rolando Pascua W 10 Kart Charbandit

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Wilfredo Urbina
Kwang Sun Kim KO 5 Kajkong Danphoothai
Jacob Matlala W 10 Raul Acosta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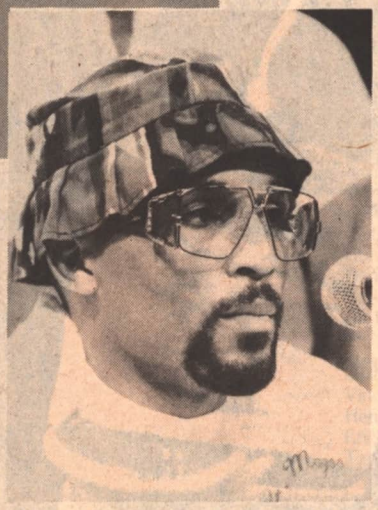
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



It's not often nowadays that a fighter is compared to Willie Pep or Sugar Ray Robinson or Jersey Joe Walcott. Today's boxers contend for world titles after 15 fights. In the early-'40s, Pep wasn't even scheduled for a 10-rounder until his *44th* fight.

But after Buddy McGirt won the WBC welterweight title by befuddling 5-2 favorite Simon Brown *(see feature story on page 38)*, even the old-timers were smothering him with praise. That's because McGirt's defense had reminded them of Pep, his pivots were pure Sugar Ray, and he borrowed Jersey Joe's familiar walkaway move. In winning a unanimous decision, McGirt fought like a fighter from the '40s. From the veteran set, there's no finer compliment.

Buddy McGirt

James Warring KO 5 Donnell Wingfield,

Roanoke, Virginia—In winning the vacant IBF cruiserweight title last September with a 24-second knockout of James Pritchard, the 33-year-old Warring seemed like a fighter in a hurry. But in his first defense, at the Valley Sports Arena against the 10th-rated Wingfield, patience was his most valuable asset.

A former actor, NFL draftee, and three-time world kickboxing champion, Warring just recently began devoting his energies solely to boxing. He's far from the smoothest boxer you'll ever see, but at 6'4", and with considerable natural power, he's more than good enough to dominate in the dreadful cruiserweight class.

Wingfield, 185¾, Cleveland, Ohio, 21-4-1 (10), troubled the champion for four rounds, then crashed from a single right uppercut in the fifth. The kayo blow also opened a nasty gash under his right eye.

Warring, 188½, Miami, 13-1 (9), moved and jabbed at the start. Wingfield approached behind a cross-armed defense and occasionally landed with wide rights and hooks to the body. But in the fourth, Warring began getting through with his jab, and in the fifth, with Wingfield rushing in, the champion found his range.

After being felled by Warring's short uppercut, Wingfield was counted out by referee Al Rothenberg. The time of the stoppage was 1:05. The loser's excuse: He said he was still woozy from a headbutt that had occurred seconds before the knockout punch.

Warring, manager Arnie Rosenthal, and promoter Cedric Kushner said they were hopeful of securing a defense against WBA light heavyweight champion Thomas Hearns, who has indicated a desire to rise in weight. If the fight is made, it will be a rarity: a bout in which the 6'1½" Hearns faces a taller foe. (11-16-91)

Genaro Hernandez KO 9 Daniel Londas,

Epernay, France—Sometimes boxing is simple, like when a fighter wins because he's bigger, or faster, or younger. Or all three. At the Epernay Sports Complex, only 30 miles from Londas' hometown of Reims, Hernandez dominated throughout to capture

the WBA junior lightweight title that had been vacated by Joey Gamache. (On the undercard, Gamache, weighing 142¼, scored a second-round kayo of Tim Tipton.)

The 5'11" Hernandez, 128½, Los Angeles, California, 24-0 (13), outboxed the 37-year-old Frenchman from the start. Londas, 129¾, 55-8-1 (23), was unable to work his way inside, and when he crouched to elude jabs, he was struck by right hands.

Hernandez, 25, opened a cut on Londas' left eyebrow in the fourth, and scored two knockdowns in the seventh, produced by a long hook, and then a glancing right uppercut. But Londas showed guts and rebounded to win the eighth. It was his last stand; in the ninth, Hernandez finished him with a classic one-two combination. Londas rose at referee Waldemar Schmidt's count of nine, but immediately walked to his own corner as a sign of surrender. It looked as if Schmidt would have intervened anyway.

Hernandez had been rated first, and Londas, the European champion, second. (11-22-91)

Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Paul Banke,

Inglewood, California—In a bout at the Great Western Forum that featured none of the fireworks distinguishing their first two title fights, Mexico's Zaragoza, 122, boxed smartly and retained the WBC super bantamweight title for the second time. The scoring was unanimous: Gelasio Perez (Mexico), 117-113; Francesco Manzano (Puerto Rico), 116-112; Raul Caiz (United States), 116-112. The referee was Rudy Jordan.

Banke-Zaragoza: The third clash

In April 1990, Banke ended fellow southpaw Zaragoza's first reign with a ninth-round kayo. This time, however, the challenger, 122, San Bernardino, California, 21-6 (11), was frustrated during his attempts to work inside. Zaragoza, 122, 44-5-1 (21), was the far better boxer, and Banke was never able to apply sustained pressure.

All the rounds were close, but Zaragoza's superior technique consistently caught the judges' eyes. Banke's sole moment came in the seventh, when a right sent the champion staggering to the ropes. It was the only time in the fight that either fighter was hurt.

Banke praised Zaragoza as a champion who has been grossly underrated by the media. Given the performance we had just witnessed, there was little reason to argue. (12-9-91)

David Wood

Gianfranco Rosi W 12 Gilbert Baptist,

Perugia, Italy—With Archie Moore, the father of the challenger's manager, in attendance, one might have expected Baptist to stage a miraculous rally and dethrone IBF junior middleweight champion Rosi. But the type of comeback Moore managed in his first title fight vs. Yvon Durelle happens about once every 50 years. Rosi, fighting before 4,000 supporters just outside of his hometown of Assisi, cruised to a unanimous decision victory. It was the seventh defense of the champion's second reign.

Two judges, Frank Cairo (United States) and Benedetto Montella (Italy), scored a shutout, 120-108. Dave Parris (Great Britain) saw it 118-111.

Rosi, 140, needed nothing more than his jab, cross, and considerable experience to pile up points. Baptist, 152¾, San Diego, 21-12 (7), remained aggressive throughout, but he was never able to drop in his powerpunches against the far quicker champion.

Rosi was paid $200,000. He spoke of a unification match with WBC champion Terry Norris, but unless the bout is made for Italy, don't expect it to materialize. (11-21-91)

Rafael Pineda KO 9 Roger Mayweather,

Reno, Nevada—Halfway through the ninth round at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Mills Lane, lawyer, referee, and judge (the kind that wears a robe), interrupted one of the dullest fights of the year and pleaded, "Look, I want you to make some extra effort here, c'mon. Let's go, c'mon!"

Add consumer advocate to his resume.

Twenty seconds later, Pineda scored a one-punch, left-hook knockout. We can only imagine what thrills Lane might have inspired had he spoken earlier.

Pineda finally caught Mayweather

With his sudden victory, Pineda, 139, Barranquilla, Colombia, 27-1 (25), captured the IBF junior welterweight crown that had been vacated by Julio Cesar Chavez. He also made up for his horrible effort in an April 1989 welterweight title try against Mark Breland, in which he was kayoed in five rounds.

Mayweather, 140, Las Vegas, 40-7 (25), failed in his attempt to win the crown for a second time. He had reigned as WBC champion from November '87 to May '89.

"I never thought one punch could make a difference in the fight," he said. "I never thought in my wildest dreams. I never did see it coming."

The judges were Glan Hamada, Keith MacDonald, and Phil Newman.

For the first eight rounds, 7-5 favorite Mayweather, backtracking from the start, saw all of Pineda's punches. The Colombian couldn't cut off the ring, partly because Mayweather moved right as well as left, and partly because "The Black Mamba" quickly changed direction. As a result, the fans booed the lack of action. After eight rounds, Pineda had landed only 87 punches, and Mayweather 105.

In the ninth, Pineda struck without warning. Though Mayweather said he never saw the kayo punch, he did turn his head in anticipation of the hook. He also dropped his right glove to his side, and the wide punch landed flush on the point of his chin. The former champion collapsed, his eyes glassy and his back resting on the bottom rope. He was counted out at the 2:00 mark, and remained flat for three minutes.

"I threw [the hook] with my heart and soul," the 25-year-old Pineda said.

And Mayweather caught it with gusto. (12-7-91) ■

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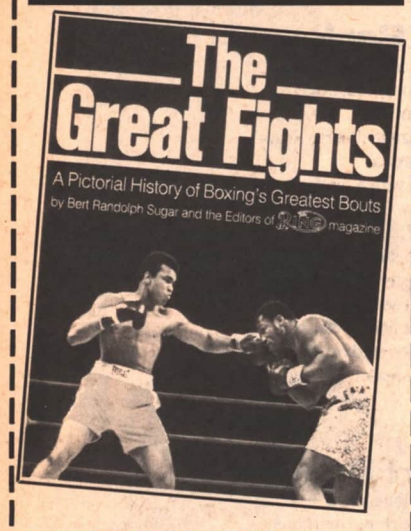

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Marvin Hart

(Continued from page 37)

and battered the bloody face and bruised body of his foe. At 164 pounds, Root was hardly more than an overstuffed middleweight. He reeled back from the thudding impact of a clubbing right, and would have fallen had the referee, the retired champion himself, not leaped forward and grabbed the brutally beaten fighter around the waist.

After carrying the glassy-eyed, thoroughly whipped Root to his corner, Jeffries grasped Hart's soggy glove and, holding it aloft, thundered, "The winner and *new* heavyweight champion of the world—Marvin *Hart!*"

More than 80 years have passed since that day of triumph for the Kentucky clouter, years that have all but obscured the memory of his name. The historians who have heard of Hart recall him mainly for two accomplishments: He was heavyweight champion of the world, and he held a victory over the great Jack Johnson.

But one of the sporting world's best-kept secrets hid Hart's greatest feat: He achieved fistic prominence in an era of great fighters and won the title *with only one eye.* Hart was totally blind in his right eye, and had been since childhood!

This long-concealed fact came to light when an old Kentucky crony of Hart's, Joe Bowers, told the story in Louisville.

"One day I was hanging around, watching Marvin work out in a Louisville barn," Bowers recalled, rubbing his seamed, leathery cheek. "Looking closely, while Hart was sparring around, I could have sworn that he had only one eye! You know, a sort of red hole where his right eye should have been. Then later on, when he was dressed in street clothes, I saw he had both his eyes! I sort of hated to ask him about a thing like that, but I had to know if I was imagining things, or if I'd really seen him boxing with only one eye. So I took a deep breath and put it to him straight—as a friend.

"Well, sir, Marvin looked at me sort of stunned and uneasy-like. Then his face broke out in a sheepish grin, and he told me I wasn't seeing things. He said he'd lost the eye in a rock fight when he was a kid, and had been wearing a glass peeper ever since.

"Hart asked me to keep his secret to myself—and I never told anyone as long as Marvin was alive.

"He was a great fighter. Hart was a lot better than they ever gave him credit for. Just imagine, there was a guy licking Johnson and winning the heavyweight title, and all with only one eye!"

Hart's 20-round bout with Johnson, in San Francisco in March 1905, was a battle of dogged endurance against superb defensive skill. At the end of 14 rounds, Johnson's wizardry had given him a comfortable lead on points. With the opening of the 15th round, however, the tide of battle swung in Hart's favor, and from then until the end of the fight, Johnson, on the receiving end of the worst pasting he was ever to endure, was battered from one side of the ring to the other. At the final bell, referee Alex Graiggins didn't hesitate in declaring Hart the winner.

A couple of years before his untimely death in 1946, Johnson, never noted for heaping praise on former opponents, said, "I don't know of any fighter who was better than me when I was in my prime. But there was one who really beat me, and he did it fair and square. I'm talking about Marvin Hart."

Hart, born on September 16, 1876, had 48 bouts in an 11-year ring career. He died on September 17, 1931, just one day after his 55th birthday, and carried with him, to his Fern City, Kentucky, grave, boxing's best-kept secret. ■

McCallum-Toney

(Continued from page 45)

rhythm against Toney. Instead, he settled for a shootout. And the fierce body attack that had earned McCallum the nickname "The Bodysnatcher" was virtually nonexistent.

"Bodypunches didn't hurt me at all," said Toney, always an antagonist. "I thought I was fighting Michael Nunn again."

Toney's comment was an apparent attempt at sarcasm, or another opportunity to drop a tinge of salt into the wounded ego of McCallum. But to compare Nunn and McCallum is ludicrous. The second half of this fight was a battle of wills, something Nunn has always tried to avoid.

As the fight advanced, Toney and

12-5 favorite McCallum never relented, even when it seemed impossible for them to continue trading punches. Early in the eighth, Toney rattled McCallum with a right-left-right combination. McCallum absorbed every punch and fired back short rights and lefts to quickly reverse the momentum. It was that kind of fight for much of the 12 rounds: one man giving, the other taking, and then a quick reversal of roles.

The 12th round was one to behold. Toney came out trying for the knockout and buckled McCallum's knees with a left hook. He followed with two overhand rights and a right uppercut. Somehow, McCallum, his aged legs unsteady, summoned enough strength to fire back combinations. At one point, the two warriors stood across from each other with their gloved fists hanging at their respective waists. For a moment, it seemed that neither knew what to do. Seconds before the bell, Toney tried one more time for the knockout, sending McCallum's mouthpiece skidding across the ring.

"Ten or 15 more seconds and he's sleeping," Toney said afterward.

McCallum, 42-1-1 (34), led on two of the three cards after 11 rounds. But had Cox given Toney a 10-8 round in the 12th, as Tom Kaczmarek had, the champion would have won by split decision. The fight was so close that according to Compubox statistics, McCallum landed 343 of 890 punches, while Toney landed 340 of 823.

Toney did everything asked of him against McCallum—except win the fight. He boxed well and absorbed the punches of a fighter who had knocked out four world champions, including Donald Curry and Milton McCrory. Even McCallum, boxing's best-kept secret for years, approved of Toney's performance.

"He was certainly a great opponent," said the former champion. "He's a little too hot-headed. If he learns to settle down, he could be a great fighter."

But that is what draws boxing fans to Toney. He is combustible and unpredictable, and the fact that he is rarely in a dull fight heightens his public appeal.

"Jackie Kallen and James Toney realize the exposure a fighter gets on network television," said ABC boxing consultant Bob Yalen. "I'd use James Toney as many times as he wants to be on. He's a good action fighter, a good story, and a terrific talent."

While boxing on network television is on a decline, ABC has already booked Toney to kick off its seven-fight 1992 schedule with a title defense during the first week in February. In a fight televised by ABC last June, Toney, cut over the left eye, got off the canvas to beat mandatory challenger Johnson by split decision.

Whomever the opponent, a title defense less than two months after the draw with McCallum may seem demanding, but Toney hasn't slowed down a bit since winning the title. Even though he is anxious to conquer the division, such a tough schedule could result in burnout or, even worse, an upset loss. Remember, Toney trailed Nunn before stopping him, won by a split decision over Johnson, and, despite a brilliant performance, was held to a draw by the 35-year-old McCallum. The champion has certainly improved in each fight, but the threat of losing is never far off.

"That's not our style to fight dead meat," said Kallen. "I'm trying to move him at a speed that is comfortable for James Toney. We don't worry about burnout. James wants to be active. If I don't keep him busy, he gets

(Continued on page 54)

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McCallum-Toney

(Continued from page 53)

stale and bored, and he wants to beat people up on the streets."

Rather than battle streetcorner hoods and potential lawsuits, Kallen prefers that all the fighting be done in the ring. And that is just fine for Toney, whose only desire is to be recognized as the best middleweight in the world.

In attempting to secure that recognition, he just may become the star that boxing needs. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

One problem has been solved. But the other still remains.

"I've never liked flying," McClellan said. "All I know is that if a plane falls from the sky, no one is going to survive."

Steward has tried to convince his middleweight that the odds of dying in a car crash are greater than dying in a plane crash. To that, McClellan says, "Give me a car crash anytime. I'll take *those* odds."

"I know my fear of air travel has caused me to miss out on a lot," he acknowledged. "Many times, when Michael, Oba, and the other guys travel to the big fights with Manny, they meet the writers and TV people, and get their names around. I know I *should* do that. But I don't, because planes scare me."

In November, however, McClellan took the longest flight of his life, traveling from Detroit to London to fight former WBC super welterweight champion John Mugabi.

"Gerald hates takeoff," Steward recalled. "He grabbed the armrest and held on for dear life."

"But after a while," McClellan added, "I liked the flight a lot better than others I've taken, because wide-bodied jets run pretty smooth. You don't get thrown around by air pockets like you do in small planes."

When McClellan touched down in England, he was ready to rumble.

"Before they fought," Steward said, "Gerald talked about how this fight meant everything to him, how it would help him get some recognition."

"I had a lot to gain," McClellan said. "And a lot to lose."

He took only 120 seconds to finish Mugabi, who was long past his prime. The fight was stopped after three knockdowns.

"I hope this win is the start of me finally stepping out of the shadows," McClellan said. "Recognition's been a long time coming." ■

Buddy McGirt

(Continued from page 39)

ROUND 1

Early on, we were feeling one another out. I wanted to get inside to test his strength because Simon has always been regarded as the strongest welterweight. I wanted to see just what he had.

I was strong, too. Over the summer, I'd built up a lot of muscles through weightlifting. In fact, I weighed 170 pounds at one point. But I wasn't snapping my jab like I usually do, so I stopped with the weights. In training for this fight, though, I sparred with middleweights, even heavyweights. So by the time the fight got underway, I figured I could deal with Simon's strength.

I wanted to stay very relaxed. I knew he started out slow and picked it up after a few rounds, so I had time to look for weaknesses. Basically, my fight plan was working. I had my hands up, and he couldn't hurt me. And I gave him constant movement, trying to make him reach. That was just one of the things I wanted to make him do. The plan was to do something different every round, because Simon can figure out a guy. And once he figures you out, he gets you, like he did with Maurice Blocker. Blocker was beating him, but Simon figured him out, then knocked him out.

I knew with a guy like Simon, you've got to keep changing. Never give him time to think about what he's going to do to you.

ROUND 2

Everyone says I'm small for a welterweight, so I figured his plan was to attack me early and get me out of there. And I knew that because I got knocked down by Tony Baltazar [in July 1989], a lot of people thought Simon would do the same to me. But people forget that the Baltazar fight was the only time I ever got knocked down in my career.

Going into this round, I wanted to move a little more. I wanted to give him a fast pace, move in circles, go inside and land combinations, then get out of there. I still wanted to get Simon to reach a little more, so I could catch him lunging. But at all times I was looking out for his bombs. And he threw them. But I let him know right away that he wasn't going to hit me with them. That's why I bobbed and weaved, and feinted here and there. He was going to have to try something different.

But a guy like Simon, who is always bombing away, finds it difficult to try something different.

ROUND 3

I wanted to fight him inside more, to try to slow him up, to break up his momentum. And I wanted to let him know that I could fight with him on the inside, too. I also wanted to establish my jab more.

I'd heard Simon's plan was to throw right hands at my left arm, where I had torn the bicep tendon. But Simon got a rude awakening, because my arm is great. What I really had to watch out for was his left hook. See, I ducked his hook, even though I didn't actually see it. I knew it was coming, though, because he does everything in a pattern. I also knew what to look for when I looked at his arms and feet. I could tell from their position what punch he was about to throw. I was aware of his hook the most, though. You have to really watch out for it. Inside, I'd keep my eyes on his arms. When I saw him move his right arm to start the uppercut, I knew he'd come back with the hook. So I let him hit me on the elbows, then I'd spin him and get out quick.

By now I already had a good idea of what to expect. But that's not from watching tapes. Twice I watched tapes of guys I was going to fight, and twice I lost. So I stopped watching them. The way I see it, if you get in a fight on the street, you ain't got no tape to refer to. So you've got to do what you got to do to adjust.

ROUND 4

In this round, I wanted to box half-a-round and fight half-a-round, because at the end of the third, he came on a bit, and I said to myself, "If I keep backing up, it will give him more

confidence." And if he got more confidence, it was going to be hard to tear down. So all I wanted to do was establish that I could box him and fight him.

I wasn't looking for a knockout. I was ready to fight 12 rounds. A knockout was the last thing on my mind. I felt I had to throw a few more counters, which I did. Every time he threw a punch, I countered off it. I wanted him to know I wasn't there just to survive. I wanted to confuse him. Every time he jabbed, I'd take a step back and get out of range. I wanted to get in, throw combinations, and get out.

At this point, I was still fresh, and he was bleeding over the right eye. But it wasn't much of a cut, so I knew I had to maintain what I was doing for X amount of rounds. I wasn't at all worried about my stamina. And I knew that I could pick him apart; I saw Al Long outbox him for seven rounds, and I saw Blocker outbox him for 10. I knew that if those two guys could go that long, I could hold him off for 12 rounds.

I made him miss a lot by keeping on the move, especially when I was near the ropes. Al told me between rounds that every time I touched the ropes, I was to make like they were hot and get away from them.

ROUND 5

Fighters are intimidated when Simon picks up the pace at this point of a fight. Well, I was determined to pick up the pace even more after he did it. I got him reaching, got him guessing. His combinations had a lot less power.

When you've fought guys like Frankie Warren and Vincent Releford, fighters who put more pressure on me than any I've ever faced, I could deal with Simon. Warren and Releford gave me 12-round wars and prepared me for this fight. If you can hurt these type guys and make them respect you, they back off because they are not used to it. And as you see, Brown was a pretty easy target at this point. He was in front of me, and I was relaxed. My punches were scoring. I was rapping Simon pretty good here, and when knockout artists get hurt, they become more careful and have to devise a new battle plan. And for them, that's like swimming upstream.

ROUND 6

Here Simon went southpaw on me. That told me he was confused. But it didn't bother me, because he wasn't able to throw his left hook, which is his best punch. Still, his blows were powerful at this point, and they still had *kayo* written on each punch.

Al didn't want me fighting inside, as I did here, but he said I could do it if I was careful.

I wasn't throwing heavy punches, but I was stringing combinations together, like Chinese water torture. See where I made him miss big? I made him miss like that from watching old fighters on tape. That's who really taught me how to bob and weave. I watch tapes of the old fighters every day. I watch their moves. It's great. There, right there, where I stuck him with a jab, turned halfway, and moved away—that's a Joe Walcott move. A lot of fighters today throw punches and don't care where they land. But I want mine to count. And tapes of old-timers like Sugar Ray Robinson and Archie Moore showed me how to make them count.

ROUND 7

The overhand right he landed at the beginning of the round didn't hurt, because I rode with it. See, I came back after every punch. I just kept tapping to the stomach, knowing that it would eventually take its toll. See how Simon missed? That takes a lot out of a fighter. He was trying to load up, which told me there was a sense of panic in his mind. He knew he had to get rid of me.

Oh, he got in some good body work against me right there, didn't he? He should've gone with combinations, though.

You probably think that in a fight like this, all I'm thinking about is my next punch. But so many crazy things were going through my mind. I started thinking about my brother Michael and my late father James. Michael always had a great saying that came to me in this round: "Some people fight as long as they can. I fight as long as I want to." I repeated that over and over, and it helped a lot.

Then I thought what my mom said to me days before the fight: "Hey, Buddy, I just got a call from Simon Brown, and he said he's gonna kick your little ass." Stuff like that can give you an emotional lift during a fight.

ROUND 8

This was the round in which I spat out my mouthpiece. The round before, I didn't drink any water, and my mouth was dry. I felt like I was going to puke. And if I did, then forget about it. They probably would've stopped the fight. Once I spat the mouthpiece out, I knew I had to throw a lot of punches to let [referee] Mills Lane know I was okay, and to not let Simon think something was wrong with me. I felt I had the fight won here because he didn't answer a series of punches near the end of the round. I outhit him like 12-2. But I kept remembering the Fenech-Nelson fight. I knew I'd better assert myself in the remaining rounds if I wanted to go home a champion. And returning home a champion was always on my mind.

ROUND 9

As the round began, I said to myself, "Buddy, you got to throw a lot of punches. Simon thinks you're tired 'cause you spit out your mouthpiece. Now you got to get your respect back."

I knew I'd have only nine minutes to go after this round, and I couldn't let up. I wanted to get this round in the bank. Then I remembered something I was told years ago about Simon. [Trainer] Bill Giles told me that

(Continued on page 56)

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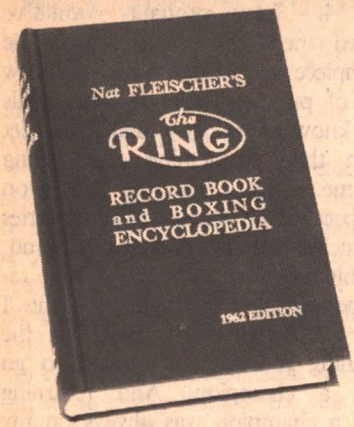

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Buddy McGirt

(Continued from page 55)

if you punch Simon, he won't punch back. So I just poured on the combinations and jabs. But he got me with a left hook at one point. Man, I was mad. I shouldn't have let him do that. But see, I got him with a left-right combination at the end.

ROUND 10

Believe it or not, I just wanted to cruise. But Simon just kept coming, and I had to fire back. I knew I was winning, but I didn't want to get too comfortable. I put Simon at the top of all the fighters I've faced. He's strong, and he put a lot of pressure on me. He just kept swinging away.

Hey, hey, watch this: two left hooks and a knockdown. Simon was on the floor, and I was saying to myself, "Please, don't get up." But, of course, he did. So I reminded myself not to get careless; just keep boxing. I really had to control my emotions so I could stay within the fight plan.

All I was thinking about was how so many people had written me off. They said I couldn't punch; they said I was finished. They were wrong.

ROUND 11

Now, more than ever, I was really concentrating hard. I knew I was close to the end. I knew I couldn't do anything ridiculous. So I was being real careful. I wanted to stay away, but he just kept coming. So I backpedaled, and flicked out the jab and an occasional right as I moved away. He couldn't catch me. At this point, I was still on my toes, and Simon was flatfooted.

I couldn't believe how fast the round went, and at one point I even heard Al yelling at the reporters at ringside, "I told you so, I told you so." It meant so much to him that I was about to beat Simon and win the title.

ROUND 12

The only thing I was thinking was that I didn't want a repeat of Louis-Conn, even though I had asked myself if I should go for the knockout, or just box. But Al told me not to do anything stupid. "Just box," he said. "Just jab. And move, move, move. Lots of lateral motion." I told him he had nothing to worry about.

I started counting the minutes in my head. And all the while I was thinking about going home a champion. That was really important to me for so many reasons. I wanted to prove to everyone that I was the best welterweight in the world. I wanted to win for the 100 family members and friends who had flown out to see me. I wanted to win for my kids, because you know how it would have been in school if I had lost. Classmates would have been saying that their father was no good, a bum. I didn't want them to go through that.

Then I started thinking about a letter my brother Tyrone wrote me. I had read it only moments before the fight. He said, "Remember, little brother, you're the best welterweight in the world, so just go out there and methodically beat this mother_____."

I had to laugh. But not for long, because even though there were only 30 seconds left in the fight, Simon kept stalking me. There was just no quit in him. None whatsoever. What a fighter! As the seconds wound down, I was wondering if he was ever going to stop pursuing me. Then I started thinking about John Tate and Mike Weaver.

Toward the end, I was looking for the red light to flash so I could start throwing punches for the last 10 seconds.

After the bell, we embraced, and Simon said, "You got it. Good fight." I thanked him for giving me a shot, and said, "Good fight, too."

When they strapped the belt on me, it was the greatest feeling in the world. I'd waited three years, fought and won 16 times, and came back from a serious injury. And that made this win a whole lot sweeter than the first title victory. But to this day, the accomplishment hasn't set in yet. There are moments, however, when I want to jump up and scream, but I don't. I'll tell you this much: To be a world champion, well, it's a feeling that you can't imagine. ■

George Foreman

(Continued from page 27)

HBO: Mark Gastineau! George, this is our man. You have to think theme: You knock him out, then you do a sack dance over the prone body. Oh, what the boys in the truck could do with that picture! Besides, after two

rounds, a musclebound novice like Gastineau won't be able to keep his hands up.

GF: Sorry, fellas, You know the rules. That's one round too many.

HBO: Michael Buffer! Bingo! It's revolutionary, George. He does the introductions, then fights in his *tuxedo*. He'll probably want a clause in the contract promising that you won't mess up his face. After all, you don't want to cost the guy any work. But don't worry; have you ever come across a ring announcer that can take it to the body?

GF: I don't know . . . When he says "let's get ready to rumble," I get kinda nervous. After all, a *rumble* is the last thing I'm looking for.

HBO: Okay, George, we have to be timely. Check it out: **William Kennedy Smith!** This guy's been in the news. He's already proven that he sells. He's coming off a mismatch victory just like you, and everybody will want to see if you can wipe that smug grin off his face. He's got that name, George: *Kennedy*. It's magic, like *Ali*. Don't you think?

GF: Not bad, not bad. But you know I like an opponent who doesn't throw too many punches, and I hear this Kennedy guy gets off pretty easy.

HBO: Riddick Bowe! Whoops, who put a *real* heavyweight on the list? Our apologies, George. Really, we're honestly, truly sorry. Some of our production assistants are kind of new, and obviously one of them screwed up. WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE GET GEORGE A CHEESEBURGER! NOW!

GF: That's okay, that's okay. Just don't let it happen again. *Phew!* You guys got me nervous there for a second.

HBO: Maybe it's a reach, George, but try this: **Pee Wee Herman!** We think the public'll buy it. Everybody thinks he got robbed in Florida, and he's more popular than ever. Picture the marquee: "Big George vs. Pee Wee." Maybe we can sell it to Circus Circus.

GF: Nah, he might make me laugh and then nail me with a sucker punch. But tell him I said he *should* put on a pair of boxing gloves to keep his hands out of trouble.

HBO: George, you just kill us! Okay, here we go: **David Duke!** Sensational! The ultimate good guy-bad guy matchup. You can enter the ring wearing a white hat, and he can wear a black hat . . . no, better yet, a white *sheet*. It'll

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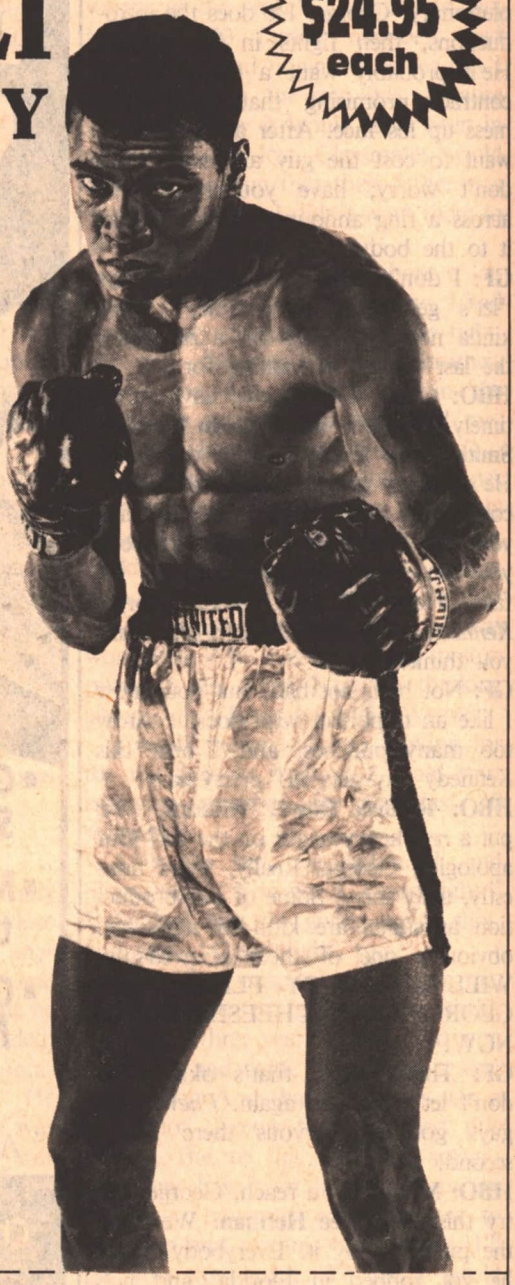

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George Foreman

(Continued from page 57)

sell out the Superdome. Got to! He's young and good-looking, and hey, it's a play on the white-hope formula. Only this time, all the hoping will be that the white guy gets crushed.

GF: Nah, 'fraid not. I seen him on TV. Guy's too hard to hit. Leans too far to the right.

HBO: This has to be the one, George: **Lou Duva!** Think about it: Captain Lou. Louie D. The Lou-man. Everybody loves him. He may be a trainer, but he's got a fighter's face. We can bill him as a '90s version of "Two-Ton" Tony Galento. Maybe you can even let him floor you with a left hook, the way Galento dropped Joe Louis, and then come back to win. But only if you want to, of course.

GF: Sorry, guys, negative. It's always been a policy of mine never to fight anyone who can outeat me. I'll break bread with him, but not bones. *Kathy* Duva maybe, but not Lou. Wait a minute. Don't Kathy and Dan Duva have a coupla kids? How old are they? What weight classes?

HBO: Ready, George? **George Burns!** All you have to do is look at the pay-per-view figures to see that the Seniors Tour works. You're middle-aged and flabby, and he's 132 years old and doesn't have an ounce of fat on him. Did you know that wrinkles are made of protein, George? Solid protein. Wonder if we can convince the Nevada commission of that.

GF: Burnsy, huh? And they'll probably bring in Ray Arcel to train him. I don't like it. The way I see it, it's a can't-win situation. If I beat him, they say I knocked out a guy more than five times my age. And if he beats me, it's "Say goodnight, Gracie." Wait a minute: Would he have to fight without his glasses on? Maybe then . . . Let's find out the name of his optometrist. I want 20-2,000 or bust! In *both* eyes.

HBO: We're coming out of left field with this one, George: **Dave Thomas!** You know, George, the guy who owns Wendy's. He makes all those commercials . . . Now think about it for a minute: If he knocks you out, he gets $10-million. If you knock him out, he has to build a Wendy's franchise on your ranch in Texas. And teach you how to work the french fry machine, too. We'd love to shoot a prefight feature of that, George. Betcha a hundred grand you can't balloon up to 400 pounds in six months.

GF: Hold on. You're asking me to hurt a man who's brought me so much happiness? You gotta be crazy. He's off the list for good. So is Frank Perdue. And Roy Rogers, and Bob from Bob's Big Boy, and Ben and Jerry, too, whoever the hell they are. Is Arthur Treacher still alive? Always liked those chips.

HBO: Okay, George, you're getting difficult, but try this: WBC strawweight champion **Ricardo Lopez!** The biggest world-class fighter in boxing against the smallest. You're 255, he's 105, but he's quick on his feet. It's never been done before, and it just might be crazy enough to work. As a publicity stunt, we could dress him in the colors of Mexico for a press luncheon, and then have you try to swallow him whole. You can excuse yourself by claiming you thought he was an overstuffed taco.

GF: Lemme see this guy's record . . . *27*-0???!!! With *20* knockouts!!!???? Forget it, unless it's in the contract that he has to reduce to 97 pounds. That might weaken him just enough. Wait a sec, do they really make tacos that big? Must be by mail order only. Any of you guys have the address?

HBO: This it it, George! We've got it! **Dave Jaco, Michael Greer, Art Card, Eddie Gonzalez,** and **Mike Rouse!** You fight three rounds against each guy. One after the other. We get Hunt's as one of the sponsors, and bill the show as "The Foreman Comeback Continues: A Million Bucks Per Tomato Can." George, FDR was President the last time any of these guys won a fight. We've already looked into it, and Maple Leaf Gardens is definitely interested. Whatta ya say? We're talking *history,* Georgie boy!

GF: Hold it. Where's my lawyer? Wonder if I can get out of this contract and jump to Showtime . . . ■

Referees

(Continued from page 31)

committing blatant fouls, but are very seldom penalized with point deductions or disqualification.

Boxing is the most brutal and demanding of all sports. But it is still a sport. Flagrant fouling, intentional or otherwise, should not be tolerated in a game that is already violent by nature.

The it's-part-of-the-game mentality has played a part in boxing's horrible image. If the rules are not adhered to, the game could begin to further deteriorate. Is the goonism prevalent in professional hockey far behind?

Leniency by boxing officials has not escaped the eyes of cornermen and fighters. The principles know that they can get away with certain fouls. During the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor title fight in March 1990, HBO announcer Jim Lampley told the viewers that part of Taylor's fight plan was to hit Chavez on the hips below the belt; trainers Lou Duva and George Benton believed that referee Richard Steele wouldn't call the foul.

Taylor's plan was not designed to hurt Chavez the way a punch to the groin would; the desired effect was a lowering of Chavez' guard. The tactic was illegal and unethical, but Taylor nevertheless deliberately broke the rules to gain an unfair advantage. And he went unpunished.

"I think a lot of referees miss the subtle fouls," says trainer Joe Goossen. "And remember, a lot of fighters know what they're doing in there. It's not an accident that they commit a foul and do it when the referee's line of sight is obstructed."

Steele, who is considered one of boxing's best referees, was barraged with criticism for his controversial stoppages of Chavez-Taylor and Mike Tyson-Razor Ruddock I. There are many observers who agreed with one or both of Steele's decisions. Yet in both fights, Taylor (subtly) and Tyson (blatantly) repeatedly fouled.

"There has been a major increase in permissiveness on the part of referees," says Arthur Mercante, the dean of active referees, and a third man in title fights for more than 30 years. "I don't know why this is. I've conducted clinics all over the world. We go through all of the ramifications of fouling, and the importance of the referees asserting themselves, getting control, getting respect, through firmness of voice and firmness of action."

There is less tolerance for fouling on undercard bouts. Referees, who generally give fighters instructions beforehand in the dressing rooms, don't seem to hesitate as much before penalizing four- or six-round fighters. Should these same fighters, especially those with reputations for fouling, deserve the luxury of repeated warnings when they reach

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Referees

(Continued from page 59)

the championship level?

"No," answers New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon. "What we've started to do is to get to the fighters beforehand in the dressing room, and get across to them how serious we are about fouling. If it's done intentionally, it's a minimum two points deducted. If it's done flagrantly, like hitting low, or after the bell when the referee has stepped between them, then they're out of here [disqualified].

"But what really gets their attention," adds Gordon, "is when I tell a fighter that if he is disqualified for flagrant fouling, we will withhold his purse. I think we've been pretty successful."

One fighter who gets away with repeated fouling, with little or no punishment, is Tyson.

"He's a dirty fighter," Mickey Duff, who handled Tyson kayo victim Frank Bruno, told *Sports Illustrated.* Duff and Bruno expected Tyson's grab bag of illegalities, and the referee's subsequent inaction. As a result, Duff had his own ideas about counter measures.

"The way you fight dirty fighters is by dirtying back," he said. Bruno followed instructions—and was penalized a point by Steele for holding and rabbit punching.

"The referee was too lenient," said Jay Bright, a member of the Tyson camp. "Bruno was fighting him dirty."

Tyson, meanwhile, hit the Englishman with elbows and forearms, connected with a grazing right uppercut as Bruno was falling during a first-round knockdown, and rocked his opponent with a hook after the bell ending the third. There were no deductions.

At face value, Duff's approach is troubling. And what makes it so disturbing is that his tactics were decided upon due to a lack of confidence in the referee, whose primary job is to ensure the fighters' safety. As it turned out in the Tyson-Bruno fight, Duff proved quite prophetic.

In the late-'80s, Teddy Atlas, who trained Tyson as an amateur, was asked what it would take to beat Tyson.

"Someone who, when Tyson hits after the bell, hits him back until they have to pull them apart," he said. "Someone who, when Tyson hits him with an elbow, hits him back with his elbow, his head, whatever it takes. Someone not just trying to survive. Someone trying to win."

Over the course of two 1991 fights with Tyson, Razor Ruddock went 19 rounds and received the same *mis*treatment as Bruno. Tyson was penalized points by Steele (in the first fight) and Mills Lane (in the rematch). But the former champion hardly seemed deterred.

In the rematch, Ruddock opted for a strategy similar to Bruno's. He, too, was penalized.

"We wouldn't have wanted to win by disqualification," said Ruddock's promoter, Murad Muhammad. "I think Mills Lane did a damm good job, especially after what happened to Razor in the first fight. But if you look closely, Lane allowed Tyson to get away with certain things. Tyson still hit Razor below the belt, he still hit Razor with the elbows, he hit Razor with his head. That's how Mike fights. Blows below the belt take their effect on a fighter. And you have to believe that Tyson, being a student of the game, knew exactly what he was doing."

(The Ring made several unsuccessful attempts to contact Tyson for a reply.)

"I'm not so sure you should disqualify every time you could legitimately make a case, even if it would stand up," says Lane. "You're ending what people came and paid to see. It's the ultimate sanction. Even if you're backed up. Although, there may come a point in time that disqualification is the only thing you can do."

Fighters have always been reminded to protect themselves at all times. (Against a Tysonesque opponent, they certainly need to.) The warning is welcomed, but what about point deductions, and, when necessary, disqualifications? After all, fouling is encouraged when it goes unpunished.

"The most effective way to discourage fouling is by letting the other fella know how it feels," says trainer Eddie Futch. "I've been involved in a few fights where the referee didn't call repeated fouls against my 'fighter, the most famous being Ali-Frazier II. Ali held Joe behind the head 133 times. I've watched the tape many times, and referee Tony Perez did nothing. At one point, I even went over to him between rounds and asked him, 'When are you going to penalize Ali?' He still did nothing."

What Futch was getting to: The fight may have had a different outcome if Frazier had answered with, say, 133

low blows.

Following the controversial stoppage of Chavez-Taylor, which came at the 2:58 mark of the 12th and final round, HBO commentator Larry Merchant asked Steele whether, given the magnitude of the fight, he should have allowed it to continue.

"No fight is worth a man's life," was the referee's reply.

What about a broken rib? Or a cut on the eyelid? Or a concussion? Or damaged kidneys? Or a ruined career?

"Referees don't seem to be that strict when it comes to kidney and rabbit punches," says Mercante. "Kidney punches wear a guy down. Suddenly, he becomes frustrated and starts looking at the referee, wondering, *Why isn't this guy doing something?* It stops his momentum."

In November 1980, Sean O'Grady seemed to be en route to winning the WBC lightweight crown from Jim Watt in the defending champion's hometown of Glasgow, Scotland. But in the 10th round, Watt headbutted the challenger, opening a wicked gash. Excessive bleeding led to a 12th-round stoppage.

Nine months later, O'Grady tried for the WBA crown. When fouled by champion Hilmer Kenty, he was sure how he was going to respond.

"When Kenty butted me, I retaliated with a low blow," said O'Grady, who won the title on points. "I said to myself, 'I'm not going to let this happen again.' "

In his March 1989 heavyweight eliminator against Evander Holyfield, Michael Dokes' game plan was to attack the body of the future champion. Like Dempsey six decades earlier, Dokes landed several low hooks in the first round. (He was warned twice.) In the second round, Holyfield decided to answer in a direct and effective way. The future heavyweight champion threw a hook hard against Dokes' protective cup, which forced Dokes to double over in pain. Referee Steele allowed Dokes sufficient time to recover from the foul, yet no points were deducted from Holyfield. At the end of the round, Steele warned both fighters in their corners: "Okay, you guys are even on low blows. From now on, anything low I deduct a point." (Dokes was subsequently penalized one point for punching low in round six.)

"Referees now are either in awe of the fighters, or the fighters' connections," says TV analyst and former trainer Gil Clancy. "I don't know which it is. They're trying to please people instead of doing their job. When a guy's a high profile guy, they're afraid to enforce the rules."

Sugar Ray Leonard knew it was against the rules to hold an opponent behind the head with his left hand and then wind up and hit him with his right. Yet he did this in his first and third fights with Roberto Duran.

"Unfortunately," said Ron Katz, a matchmaker for Top Rank, "our sport is a sport of beating your opponent, where it has become acceptable, whether it's right or wrong, that if a referee lets you get away with it, why not do it."

Leonard, some have argued, was only retaliating for the mauling and brawling tactics used by Duran. No points were deducted from either fighter in any of their three title fights.

Sometimes, marquee fighters like Leonard are the victims of flagrant fouls. After Terry Norris knocked down Leonard in the first round of their February 1991 title fight at Madison Square Garden, Norris took another swipe while Sugar Ray was on his haunches. Norris received only a warning from referee Arthur Mercante Jr., who is ac-

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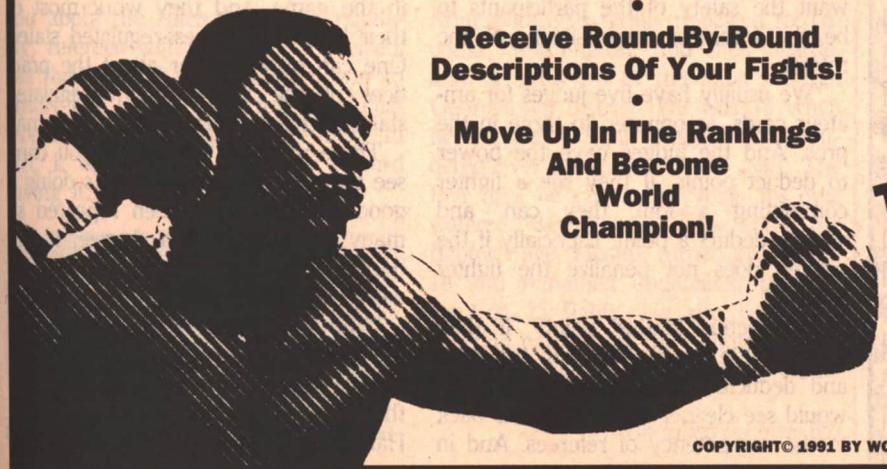

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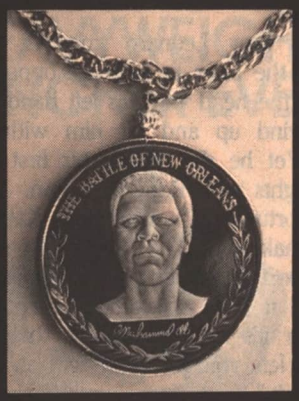

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Referees

(Continued from page 61)

knowledged as one of the finest young referees in the world.

"Norris has done this thing before," says veteran trainer Angelo Dundee. (In 1987, Norris was disqualified for hitting a fallen Joe Walker.) "This is too tough a business for that type of stuff to go on. There must be stricter enforcement of the rules. That type of stuff has got to be contained. There is no room for situations like that."

In a June 1991 defense of the WBC super featherweight title, Azumah Nelson twice hit Jeff Fenech after the bell—and received only a warning from referee Joe Cortez. Nelson later countered that Fenech had used his head, elbows, and shoulders throughout the fight, yet received nothing but a caution. The bout, which most observers scored for Fenech, was declared a draw by the judges. As it turned out, had a point been deducted the second time Nelson landed a late punch, the controversial outcome would have been avoided.

A referee's job is not an easy one, nor is it as simple as we'd like to think. There's more than just knowing the rules. The third man has to *apply* the rules, sometimes under intense pressure. There isn't a referee who wants to make a mistake, especially in front of a hostile live crowd or a pay-per-view audience numbering in the millions.

"Professional boxing referees have more pressure on them than officials in any other sport," says Bruce Mathis, Associate Executive Director of the USA Amateur Boxing Federation. "In the amateurs, we try to relieve that pressure from the referee because we want the safety of the participants to be the foremost responsibility of the referee.

"We usually have five judges for amateur cards, as opposed to three in the pros. And the judges have the power to deduct points. If they see a fighter committing a foul, they can, and should, deduct a point. Especially if the referee does not penalize the fighter himself."

Katz echos Mathis' point: "If they were a little more strict with the rules and deducted points more justly, you would see cleaner fights. It comes back to the competency of referees. And in this day and age, there are only a handful."

Some pressure on referees could indeed be relieved by empowering judges with deducting points for fouls. To maximize the usefulness of this method, a fourth judge would have to be added so that there would be no blind sides of the ring. With rare exceptions, fouls would be seen by at least one judge. The referee would be notified of any deductions at the end of each round, and would then inform the fighters.

Moreover, the evaluation of referees should be more open. The commissions in Nevada, New York, and New Jersey regularly evaluate their officials. Trainers, and former referees and fighters should be added to the review boards. Referees should be evaluated after each performance, and those with the highest grades should be rewarded with championship assignments. The National Football League grades its officials, and only the best are assigned to the playoffs and Super Bowl.

One further step: Fine, and in some cases, suspend fighters who are disqualified or penalized for fouling and unsportsmanlike conduct. If all the state commissions and world sanctioning bodies agree to honor such suspensions, fighters would begin to think twice before repeating their fouls.

Boxing referees have the responsiblity of maintaining control and enforcing the rules. Unlike officials, referees, and umpires in other sports, however, they also have the participants' lives in their hands.

"There are a lot of incompetent guys out there," says Al Braverman, the director of boxing for Don King Productions. "There are a few good ones. But not as many as there should be."

(Keep in mind, the referees mentioned in this story, like Steele, Cortez, and Lane, are the best active referees in the game, and they work most of their bouts in the best-regulated states. One can only wonder about the practices of the referees in unregulated states such as Colorado and Oklahoma.)

There is an old saying: "If you can't see the referee, you know he's doing a good job." This has been repeated so many times that, to a degree, it has become the standard by which a referee's competence is measured.

"You have all these guys in the media who go around repeating that line, and they haven't the slightest clue as to the role of a referee," says Larry Hazzard, the head of the New Jersey

Athletic Control Board, and a former top-shelf referee.

Breaking fighters from clinches and stopping one-sided bouts at the appropriate time have seemingly become the sole duties of many referees. As a result, fouling has become an accepted byproduct.

"They have to make the calls, but so few of them do," says Braverman.

A referee's job is very challenging. His performance can, sometimes does, and, when necessary, *ought* to play a role in the outcome of a fight.

Boxing, which has more than its share of behind-the-scenes controversies, should be able to present clean competition, especially at the championship level. At the turn of the century, college football was nearly banned because of numerous on-the-field deaths. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt invited coaches and athletic administrators from Harvard, Princeton, and Yale to the White House to discuss how to make football a safer game. From that conference came an agreement to change the game's rules. Judging by the success that college football enjoys today, the get-together worked. But the rules changes could never have worked had on-field officials not enforced them.

We can't expect President Bush to sit in the Oval Office and chat with the heads of boxing's three major sanctioning bodies, Jose Sulaiman (WBC), Bob Lee (IBF), and Gilberto Mendoza (WBA), and the sport's three major promoters, Don King, Bob Arum, and Dan Duva. But concern must start somewhere.

"It's time that something is done by the people involved in the sport to start taking action to make boxing more wholesome to the public," says Katz. "It's a difficult thing. But if the rules and regulations were followed in the ring, it might make things easier."

Even if they act more assertively and apply the rules fairly and equitably, referees will always be criticized. But they have it within their power to ensure that the rules are followed. That wouldn't hurt boxing in any way. In fact, it would go a long way toward saving it. ■

Al Hostak

(Continued from page 47)

Today, Hostak, 76, lives comfortably in retirement in the southwest Seattle suburb of White Center. He enjoys golfing, his collection of hundreds of albums and tapes, and the company of his two sons, both of whom live in the Seattle area, and five grandchildren. He is in good health—he is an outspoken, even fanatical, critic of cigarette smoking—and displays few signs of his 81 professional ring wars. There is a small scar over his left eye, a stiffness of the left ear, and the lumps that remain on his oft-shattered hands. He also complains of slightly blurry vision, the result of a thumb caught by his left eye in his second 1936 battle with Don LaRue.

Even 42 years after his last fight, Hostak is asked to explain how he generated his two-fisted punching power. He was a rangy 6-foot middleweight with the perfect boxer's body—long arms, broad shoulders, small waist, and strong, thin legs. But instead of nature, he credits the tutelage of his manager, trainer, and mentor, Eddie Marino.

"Eddie taught me the basics and the fundamentals of boxing," Hostak said. "He taught me how to get the most out of the hook, the cross, the jab, and the uppercut. Learn those efficiently and correctly, blend with grit, perseverance, and determination, and you have the making of a champion."

Marino, a former Canadian featherweight champion who fought world champion Abe Attell three times, taught Hostak never to deliver a right unless it was as a counter against his opponent's right. ("The right's a sucker punch," Marino warned.) His primary weapon was his hook, which he could deliver from several positions.

"Finally," Hostak said, "I began to develop rhythm with my punches, and learned to keep my balance while driving my fists and still following through with both shoulder and forearm power."

Hostak was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His family relocated to Tacoma, Washington, and then Seattle, and he grew up in the latter's tough Georgetown district. He was 15 when he skipped football practice and wandered over to Marino's new gym. The first time he saw a heavybag, his eyes watered. With Marino lying about the fighter's age, Hostak turned pro at age 16 and remained undefeated through his first 23 fights. He also became a sparring partner for the fighter he idolized, Seattle middleweight Freddie Steele.

(Continued on page 65)

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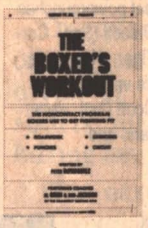

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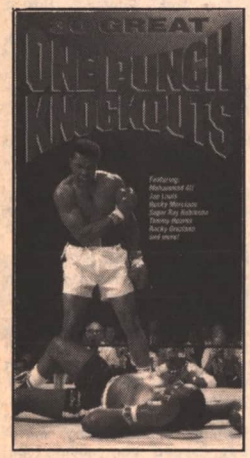

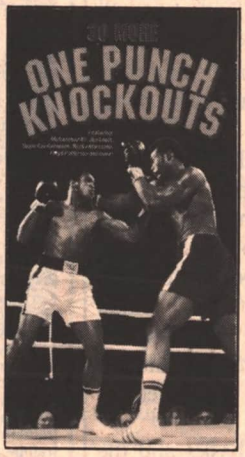

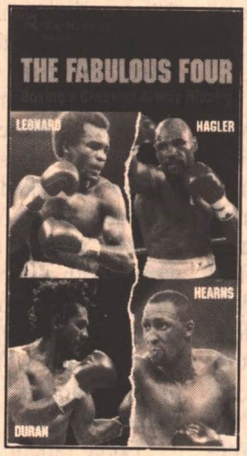

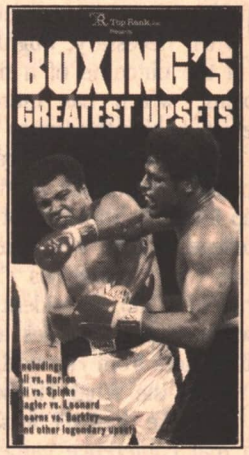

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Al Hostak

(Continued from page 63)

On a run of 14 straight kayos, Hostak, only 22, challenged NBA middleweight champion Steele before 30,000 fans at Seattle's Civic Stadium in July 1938. It was a natural local rivalry, and promoter Nate Druxman brought in Dempsey to referee. It wasn't long after the "Manassa Mauler's" instructions that a new champion was crowned. Attacking savagely, the challenger managed to score four knockdowns in less than half a round.

"Everyone was saying after the fight that I caught him with a lucky punch," Hostak recalled. "It was no lucky punch. I studied Steele's moves for months before I ever got into the ring with him. I noticed that every time an opponent jabbed, Freddie would reach out to catch it with his right.

"At the bell, Steele came out of his corner like a house afire. I jabbed, and he reached out. I jabbed again, and he repeated the reach. I then feinted a jab, Freddie reached for it, and I came over his extended arm with a short left hook. I planted the right foot, turned with the punch, put all the upper body behind the hook, and down he went. He never recovered.

"On the night, I could've knocked out Joe Louis."

Hostak was a world champion, but not the *only* world champion. The New York and California commissions chose to recognize San Francisco's Fred Apostoli, who was tied to the most powerful promoter in the game, Mike Jacobs. Their rationale: Apostoli had stopped Steele in a January 1938 non-title bout.

"New York still owes me an apology," Hostak told *The Ring*. "I defeated the man universally recognized as the champion, and they declined to recognize me. They've owed me an apology for a long time. I became totally demoralized and lost most of my spirit. I blame that more than my hands for not going farther than I did."

At the time, Hostak made his feelings public. In a 1940 first-person magazine article entitled "Why I Won't Fight For Mike Jacobs," he wrote of a 1939 summer trip to New York: "Funny thing about that trip, I didn't like New York. Every time I got into a jammed, stuffy elevated train, I thought, *Mike Jacobs can have his New York and all the high-powered publicity that goes with it.* And I went back to my farm, where I breathed the fresh air and considered myself lucky that I could get more money fighting for promoter Druxman in Seattle than I could boxing for Jacobs in Gotham's big arenas."

After crushing Steele, who never fought again, Hostak wanted to unify the title. But he lost the NBA crown in his first defense. In November 1938, he met Brooklyn's rugged Solly Krieger, a contender with 15 losses. Over the first half of the fight, Hostak broke both hands, which, it would become increasingly apparent, were not made to withstand the impact when the middleweight punched with maximum velocity and leverage. But he wouldn't quit, and after lasting the 15-round distance, he was hospitalized with injuries to his hands and face.

"After the fight, my own father didn't recognize me," he said.

Eight months later, he floored Krieger five times and regained the title by fourth-round knockout. The crossroads victory proved two points: First, if his hands held up, Hostak was competitive with any middleweight in the world. And second, allowed to land his hooks, he was almost unstoppable. Confident again, Hostak sought Apostoli. Later that year, however, all plans of a showdown were destroyed when the Californian was kayoed by Ceferino Garcia.

Tony Zale is best remembered for his trilogy with Rocky Graziano. But before Graziano even turned pro, Zale engaged in a three-fight series with Hostak. He won all three bouts, which, for all intent and purpose, ended Hostak's run as a championship-caliber middleweight.

Zale-Hostak I was a non-title fight in Chicago. Hostak opened as if uncaged, and "The Man of Steel" was immediately overwhelmed by a series of hooks. Zale crashed in the first round, but, exhibiting as big a heart as the division has ever known, he rose and fought on. In the fifth, Hostak rebroke his left hand, and Zale went on to win by decision.

The NBA title was at stake in the return, fought in Seattle in July 1940. This time, Hostak injured *both* hands in the middle rounds, and Zale, punching viciously to the ribs and kidneys, scored a 13th-round stoppage.

(Continued on page 68)

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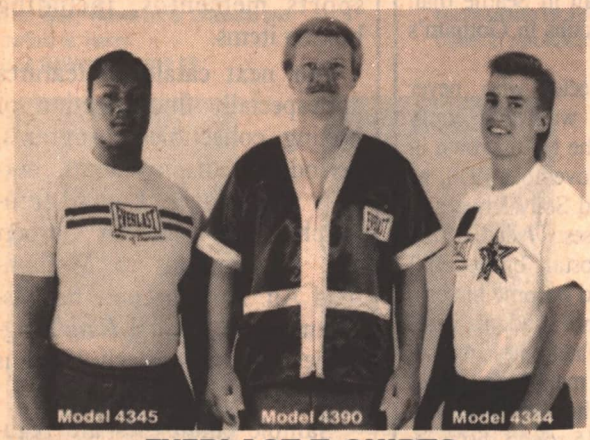

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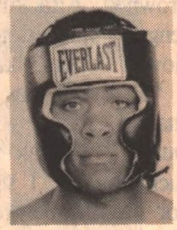

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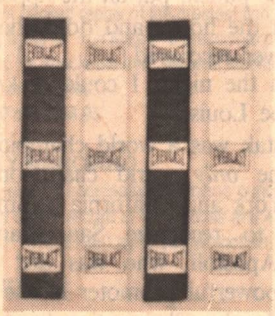
S, M, L ... $17.00 XL .. $19.55

CORNER CUSHIONS



Full corner protection. Made of "Nevatear" vinyl coated nylon with "Dura-Foam" filler.
(SET: 1/Red, 2/White, 1/Blue)

6654 Corner Cushions (Set) **$93.50**
6654 Corner Cushions (Each) **$25.50**

PROTECTION CUPS

TOP PROFESSIONAL

Model 4461 **Model 4460**

★ The finest top grain genuine horsehide leather is utilized for the covering.
★ Lined with selected soft genuine suede leather.
★ Unbreakable super-lightweight "Everlite" cup.
★ Super shock absorbing "Ensolite" closed-cell foam padding.
★ Includes 4" wide heavy-duty elastic laced closure for snug comfortable fit. (Model 4461 includes oversized waist for an extra measure of hip and kidney protection.)

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large.

4461 Top Professional Protection Cup **$106.25**
4460 Professional Protection Cup **$85.00**

OLYMPIC & AMATEUR

Model 4462

★ Unbreakable lightweight "Everlite" cup.
★ Super shock absorbing "Ensolite" closed-cell foam padding.
★ Triple coated with rugged PVC liquid vinyl and baked to a smooth unblemished finish.
★ Includes 4" wide heavy-duty elastic laced closure for snug comfortable fit.

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large

4462 Olympic Protection Cup **$54.40**

EVERLAST® U.S.A. Choice of Champions®

MEDICINE BALLS

Genuine cowhide leather. All seams are inverted and lock-stitched for durability.

6502 (9 lb.) $61.20
6503 (11 lb.) $71.40
6504 (15 lb.) $79.90

MOUTH GUARDS

Made of the finest para rubber. It's soft, pliant and stays white. Odorless, tasteless & hygenic.

4401 (single) $2.15
4404 (double) $2.55

SKIP ROPES

Leather, ball bearing ropes.

4496 (8') 10.20
4497 (9½') $11.05
4499 (9½') (Extra Thick) $13.60

HAND WRAPS

100% cotton herringbone woven.

4450 Hand Wraps $4.65/pair

BAG GLOVES

TOP PRO BAG GLOVES

- ★ Genuine horsehide
- ★ Genuine leather binding
- ★ Padded with shock absorbing Enso Foam

4305 (L) $56.10/pair
4305 (XL) $59.50/pair

WORKOUT BAG GLOVES

- ★ Top grain cowhide
- ★ Thick full length dense padding
- ★ Padded palm grip

4306 (L) $27.00/pair
43066 (XL) $28.90/pair

TRAINING GLOVES

TOP PRO TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Finest quality soft genuine horsehide.
- ★ Fully leather bound and reinforced leather finger pocket.

2412 (12 oz.) $136.00/pair
2414 (14 oz.) $141.10/pair
2416 (16 oz.) $146.20/pair
24166 (16 oz. XL) $149.60/pair

MILITARY TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Top grain leather
- ★ Individually padded with a special combination of blended long staple filler and foam.

2512 (12 oz.) $44.20/pair
2514 (14 oz.) $46.75/pair
2516 (16 oz.) $49.30/pair

WORKOUT TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Genuine top-grain leather
- ★ Fully lined and bound

2712 (12 oz.) $28.90/pair
2714 (14 oz.) $30.60/pair
2716 (16 oz.) $32.30/pair

1 LB. HAND WEIGHTS

(FOR SHADOW BOXING)

$2.50/pair

LEATHER SPEED BAGS

Astro Speed Kidskin Bag (8"x5")
4204 ..... $54.40

Sonic Speed Bag (9"x6")
4200 ..... $56.10

Jet Speed Bag (10"x7")
4201 ..... $59.50

Super Speed Bag (11"x8")
4202 ..... $62.90

Military Speed Bag (11"x8")
4213 ..... $49.30

Genuine Leather Speed Bag
4210 (11"x8") $37.40

DOUBLE END BAG

Leather welted and nylon lined.

Model 4220 $68.00

NEOPRENE SHORTS

$31.50

Order by waist size. Color: Beige

S (23-27"); M (27-32"); L (32-38"); XL (38-45")

EQUIPMENT BAGS

EVL 251 (18x9") Blue $11.95
EVL 252 (24x12") Black $15.50

EVL 555 (19x9x9") $16.50
Black Rayon Canvas

EVL 585 (18x10x10") $22.00
Blue with Green Neon Nylon Oxford

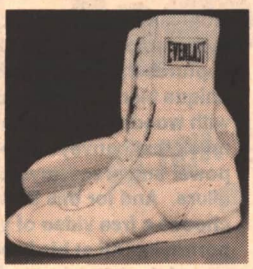
EVL 540 (42x16") $27.50

Triple Color Bag ... Black, Red and Blue.

STRIKING BAG BLADDERS

4230 for 4200, 4204 ..... $5.10
4232 for 4201, 4202, 4210, 4213 ..... $5.10
4234 for 4220 ..... $5.10

EVERLAST BOXING SHOES

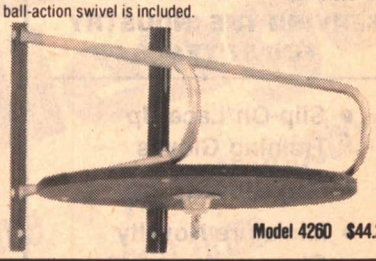


The shoe's "upper" is 10" high and made of a combination of the finest top-grain cowhide and superior stretch nylon mesh. Available in half szes from 6 to 14.

4430 (White or Black) ... $68.00

STANDARD 24" ADJUSTABLE PLATFORM

Specially designed for residential installation. Full-sized solid wood drum. Smoothly finished for fast accurate rebounds. All steel construction with simplified 6¾" height adjustment. Wall brackets are 16" on center to fasten to wall studs. Fast ball-action swivel is included.



Model 4260 $44.20

STRIKING BAG SWIVELS

TOP PRO BALL BEARING SWIVEL

Precision ball bearing construction insures super speed, smooth action and accurate rebounds. Shur-Lok device to hold striking bag. Heavy duty flange mounts securely to platform.

4444 $22.10

PROFESSIONAL SWIVEL

Swivel ball is oil impregnated and precision machined for super-fast ball-bearing action. Heavy-duty flange mounts securely to the platform.

4440 $15.30

PUNCH MITTS

- ★ Made of finest top grain cowhide.
- ★ Extra thick, shock absorbing Dur-o-Lite padding.

4315
Punch Mitts
$21.25 each

SWIVEL WITH 2 S-HOOKS
4685 $3.40

STEEL BEAM Attachment
4681 $17.00

WOOD BEAM Attachment or Floorplate
For D.E. Heavy Bag
4680 $12.75

4688
$8.50
CHAIN & SWIVEL Assembly with 6 S-Hooks

HEAVY DUTY COMPRESSION SPRING
Tested with weights over 300 pounds. For maximum effectiveness, use with our joist bracket.
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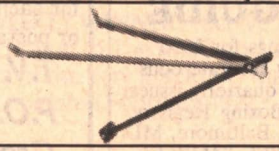
HEAVY DUTY BEAM BRACKET
Fits all std. 2" ceiling joists. Fastens with 1½" lag screws. Built-in swivel ring.
$7.95 Guaranteed



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4682
$51.00

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- BOXING STEP BY STEP — Cerrone ..... $ 7.95
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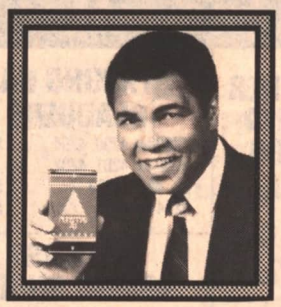

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Al Hostak

(Continued from page 65)

"With those kind of hands," Marino said at the time, "Al should never fight again."

But he did, and in May 1941, he attempted to regain the NBA crown for the second time. Hostak wisely tried for an early knockout, and even dropped Zale in the first round. But Zale wasn't easily discouraged, and the challenger fell one round later.

It was apparent that Hostak was near his finish when he lost decisions to former world champion Ken Overlin in November 1941 and 21-year-old Seattle prospect Harry Matthews in September 1942. World War II interrupted his slide, and Hostak, who served as a rifleman in the Army, saw combat in Japan. Needing money and without a trade, he resumed his career upon returning to the States, and scored six early-round kayos. In 1947, he split a pair of bouts against Bronx bulldog Steve Belloise, and, in January 1949, exited after knocking out Jack Snapp.

The only fight that would have brought Hostak back to the ring would have been a clash with rising middleweight Rocky Graziano. But the Rock, a blown-up welterweight, wanted no part of a big and dangerous middleweight, and the match was never made. After realizing he had thrown his last punch, Hostak attended bartending school, obtained a union card, and, for the next 10 years, used his fast hands to mix drinks. In 1958, he joined the King County Sheriff's Department, and remained there until 1973. Then, for 10 years, and until his retirement, he worked as a security guard at Longacres Racetrack.

Hostak saved most of his ring earnings, and he bought a service station, which was run by his older brother, a new house for his parents, and a small fishing farm. Today, he lives in a modest, comfortable home.

It doesn't matter how many years have gone by: Hostak will be bitter about his failure to secure universal title recognition until the day he dies. But whenever he talks about boxing, the conversation invariably turns not to the politics of the game, but to his punching power.

In that regard, he'll forever be universally accepted. ■

Marty Carson is a freelance writer based in Everett, Washington.

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

$500 winner

Actual questions

Which boxer did not win an Olympic gold medal?
1) Muhammad Ali
2) Joe Frazier
3) George Foreman
4) Mike Tyson

What was Rocky Marciano's professional record?
1) 49-0
2) 27-4
3) 87-0
4) 56-9

The movie based on the life of Jake LaMotta is:
1) Somebody Up There Likes Me
2) Rocky
3) Raging Bull
4) The Great White Hope

Which city hosted the Mike Tyson vs. Buster Douglas fight?
1) Tokyo
2) Las Vegas
3) Atlantic City
4) London

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins March 19, 1991, and continues through March 19, 1992. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute. This contest is sponsored by G.C. London Publishing Associates in connection with The RING Magazine. No purchase necessary to participate. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to RING TRIVIA, P.O. Box 374, Guilford, CT 06437-0374. To win, answer seven consecutive boxing trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing for one $500 winner and a weekly drawing for one winner for a one-year subscription to The RING (cover price value is $30) and one copy of a replica of the first issue of The RING Magazine (retail value is $9.95). This contest is void where prohibited by law.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of September

WBA as of October

IBF as of December

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	2	5	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	3	6	6
George Foreman (USA)	4	4	2
Lennox Lewis (GB)	5	3	5
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	6	7	8
Michael Moorer (USA)	7	11	9
Phil Jackson (USA)	8	-	-
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	-	-
Joe Hipp (USA)	10	-	-
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	3
James Smith (USA)	13	8	-
Francesco Damiani (ITA)	16	9	-
Tony Tucker (USA)	-	10	7
Carl Williams (USA)	15	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	1	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	5	2
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	3	-	12
Johnny Nelson (GB)	4	4	6
Derek Angol (GB)	5	2	7
Dennis Andries (GB)	6	-	12
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	7	-	8
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	8	-	10
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	9	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	10	3	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	14	1	1
Phil Jackson (USA)	-	6	-
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	13	7	-
Mike Hunter (USA)	12	8	3
Akim Tafer (FRA)	17	9	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	10	9
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Iby Zimmerman (CAU)	-	-	4
Richard Mason (USA)	15	-	5

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTR)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	1	3	3
Frank Tate (USA)	2	-	1
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	4	4	12
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	5	2	2
Andrew Maynard (USA)	6	1	6
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	7	6	4
Don Lalonde (CAN)	8	-	-
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	10	7	5
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Dennis Andries (GB)	-	5	-
Ed Mack (USA)	18	8	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	15	9	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	29	10	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Iran Barkley (USA)	14	-	7
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	-	8
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	9
Booker Word (USA)	-	12	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	1	3	6
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	2	2
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	4	-
James Cook (GB)	4	1	8
Lindell Holmes (USA)	5	6	3
Ron Essett (USA)	6	5	7
Dan Schommer (USA)	7	-	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	8	-	5
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	9	9	-
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	10	8	10
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Vicenzo Nardiello (ITA)	13	7	-
Larry Musgrove (USA)	14	10	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	-	-	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	1
John Jarvis (USA)	26	-	4
Nelson Alves (GER)	20	-	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	4	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	2	3	4
Reggie Johnson (USA)	3	2	1
Lamar Parks (USA)	4	5	6
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	5
Steve Collins (USA)	6	1	3
Nigel Benn (GB)	7	7	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	8	-	10
Segundo Mercado (PR)	9	-	-
Willie Monroe (USA)	10	-	-
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	2
Thomas Tate (USA)	21	6	7
Joe Gatti (USA)	25	8	-
Ulysses Boulware (USA)	23	9	-
Chad Parker (USA)	23	10	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Kid Milo (GB)	-	-	8
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	19	-	9

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	1	1	1
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	2	4	3
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	3	6
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	4	2	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	-
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	-	-
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	7	-	9
Wally Swift (GB)	8	12	7
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	6	-
Tyson Vasquez (MEX)	10	-	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	-	5	2
Jun Sok Hwang (KOR)	-	7	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	12
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	9	-
Pat Lawlor (USA)	-	10	11
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	13	-	4
Roy Jones (USA)	28	-	5
Vincent Pettway (USA)	-	-	8
Quincy Taylor (USA)	11	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Simon Brown (USA)	C	-	-
Buddy McGirt (USA)	1	2	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	2	-	C
Glenwood Brown (USA)	3	3	3
Genaro Leon (MEX)	4	7	7
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	5	8	1
Luis Garcia (VEN)	6	4	2
Santos Cardona (PR)	7	-	-
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	8	9	12
Vernon Phillips (USA)	9	-	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	10	1	5
Jorge Bracamonte (ARG)	11	10	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	5	4
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	12	6	-
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	6
David Gonzalez (USA)	13	-	8
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	14	11	9
Yori Campas (MEX)	20	12	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	2	12
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	2	3	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	3	4	6
Roger Mayweather (USA)	4	-	2

Harold Brazier (USA)	5	-	8
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	6	-	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	7	8	12
Rodney Moore (USA)	8	5	5
Terrence Ali (USA)	9	6	3
Greg Haugen (USA)	10	-	11
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pyung Sup Kim (KOR)	26	7	-
Ignacio Bernal (COL)	-	9	-
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	-	10	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	13	-	1
Charles Murray (USA)	15	-	4
Oba Carr (USA)	17	-	7
Andy Holligan (GB)	12	-	9
Ike Quartey (GHA)	11	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	C
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	1	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	2	2	5
Jorge Paez (MEX)	3	5	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	4	6	7
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Carl Crook (GB)	6	-	11
Poli Diaz (SPA)	7	4	-
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	8	9	9
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	9	-	8
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	10	-	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	3	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	15	7	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	12	8	2
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	19	10	-
Eduardo Molina (COL)	19	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	26	-	6
Todd Foster (USA)	22	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	1	3	-
John-John Molina (PR)	2	6	1
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	3	1	-
Daniel Londas (FRA)	4	2	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	5	-	6
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	6	-	-
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	7	-	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	8	7	11
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	9	9	-
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	10	12	10
Joey Gamache (USA)	-	C	-
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	16	4	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	12	5	3
Eugene Speed (USA)	18	8	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	-	10	-
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	2
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	4
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	-	-	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	7
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	8
Francisco Valdez (MEX)	-	-	9

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	C	-	-
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	1	3	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	2	8	9
Tom Johnson (USA)	3	2	2
Ever Beleno (COL)	4	7	10
Kevin Kelley (USA)	5	5	5
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	6	9	-
Jose Ramos (DR)	7	-	-
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	8	11	-
Miguel Francia (ARG)	9	-	-
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	10	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	1	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	11	4	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	6	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	17	10	11

Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	3
James Leija (USA)	12	-	4
Troy Dorsey (USA)	23	-	6
Harold Rhodes (USA)	26	-	7
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	16	-	8

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	2	7	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	-	4
Freddy Cruz (DR)	4	2	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	5	-	5
Jemal Hinton (USA)	6	4	8
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	10	-
Paul Banke (USA)	8	-	-
Chun Huh (KOR)	9	-	-
Ki Jun Lee (KOR)	10	-	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	C	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	-	3	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	5	6
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	11	6	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	27	8	10
Noree Jockygym (THAI)	21	9	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	2
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	3
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	24	12	7
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	1	-	11
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	2	-	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	3	-	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	4	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	5	2	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	6	10	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	7	5	1
Eliecer Julio (COL)	8	1	-
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	9	-	2
Junior Jones (USA)	10	3	4
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	C	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THA)	-	4	-
Dio Andujar (PHI)	-	6	6
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	7	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	28	8	-
Chong Pil Park (KOR)	-	9	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Billy Hardy (GB)	-	-	5
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	-	7
Ray Minus (BAH)	-	-	8
Harold Mestre (COL)	-	11	9
Javier Leon (MEX)	13	12	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	1	1	9
Johnny Tapia (USA)	2	8	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	3	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	4	3	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	5	2	12
Armando Salazar (MEX)	6	-	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	7	5	-
Torsak Pongsupa (THAI)	8	-	-
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	9	-	3
Nana Konadu (GHA)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	-	4	-
Hugo Soto (ARG)	-	6	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	18	7	2
Guillermo Salcedo (COL)	-	9	-
Luis Malave (VEN)	-	10	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Carlos Mercado (COL)	11	-	1
Luis Bueno (MEX)	17	-	4

Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	5
Satoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	6
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	7
Chatohai Tanieul (THAI)	-	-	8
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	19	12	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	1	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	2	-	3
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	3	7	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	4	5	6
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	5	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	6	-	5
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	7	-	-
Jung Koo Chang (KOR)	8	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	9	-	11
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	10	1	1
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	-	2	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	19	3	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	4	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	6	-
Julio Gudino (PAN)	18	8	-
Torsak Osotsapha (THAI)	-	9	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	23	10	8
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	2
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	17	-	4
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	7
John Johnson (USA)	-	-	9
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	15	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	1	-	1
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	2	-	3
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	8	7
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	4	1	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	5	2	-
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	6	9	-
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	7	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	8	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	9	-	5
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	10	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	19	3	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	29	4	8
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	16	5	-
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	20	6	2
Jorge Blanco (COL)	22	10	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Boy Lucas (PHIL)	-	-	4
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	6
Felix Montiel (MEX)	-	12	9
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	2	2	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	3	5	5
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	4	9	2
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	5	1	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	6	6	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	7	-	3
Danny Nunez (DR)	8	11	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	9	7	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	10	3	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	15	4	4
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	26	8	7
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	27	10	-
Far-Lan Lookmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	28	-	1
Said Iskandar (INDO)	20	-	6
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	8
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	13	12	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	-	-	10

RING CLASSIC

IS THERE FIGHT AFTER SEX?

A New Look At Boxing's Oldest Myth

From The Ring, December 1979

By Vic Ziegel

"The act of plunging suddenly into cold water is apt to produce a shock which is not good, so don't think simply because you have read about it somewhere that a cold plunge is essential, for it is not . . .

" . . . What I do consider good for any young man is a cold sponge in the morning, but that is quite different from the plunge . . .

" . . . If you are going to train, you will have to stop smoking, for it is rank poison to the athlete. Inveterate smokers don't make champions . . .

"Above all, a boy entering the sport of boxing should always keep in mind that a good home and good home surroundings are priceless. These should not be cast aside for the life of a tough or that of a gangster or loafer. Clean, wholesome good living is just as essential toward success as is a powerfully built body . . .

" . . . Theodore Roosevelt was a great believer in the sport. He often remarked that it developed an even, peaceable temperament . . .

" . . . Be moderate in everything. Don't overwork, overeat, or oversleep. Overindulgence of any kind may offset all the good you have acquired . . .

" . . . Don't masturbate."

Nat Fleischer, editor and publisher of *The Ring,* slipped all that into *How To Box,* copyright 1929. Of course, deep thinking has come a long way since 1929. *Hollywood Squares,* for example. Mr. Fleischer did have it right about smoking, and the cold plunge still doesn't sound like such a great idea, but the business about the sponge is very weird. Maybe the sponge was hot stuff 50 years ago, when they didn't know about pulsating showerheads or the really swell washcloths that are around today.

Theodore Roosevelt? No argument there. Terrific person. Army guy. President. Ran up a hill, way before the jogging thing.

And moderation. Absolutely right. Moderation, in all things, moderation. Know who said that? Some moderator.

One of boxing's most notorious playboys was Willie Pastrano, pictured with wife Fay and trainer Angelo Dundee in 1957. His smile always gave him away.

It's that last bit of advice—don't masturbate—that concerns us here. Actually, it's the whole question of s-e-x. Sex and fighting. Or, if you prefer, fighting and sex.

Old-timers believed that sex was out of the question for a fighter in training. Just the way Rogers Hornsby stayed away from movie houses during the baseball season for fear of hurting his eyes. Weak eyes, Hornsby reasoned, made for weak batting averages.

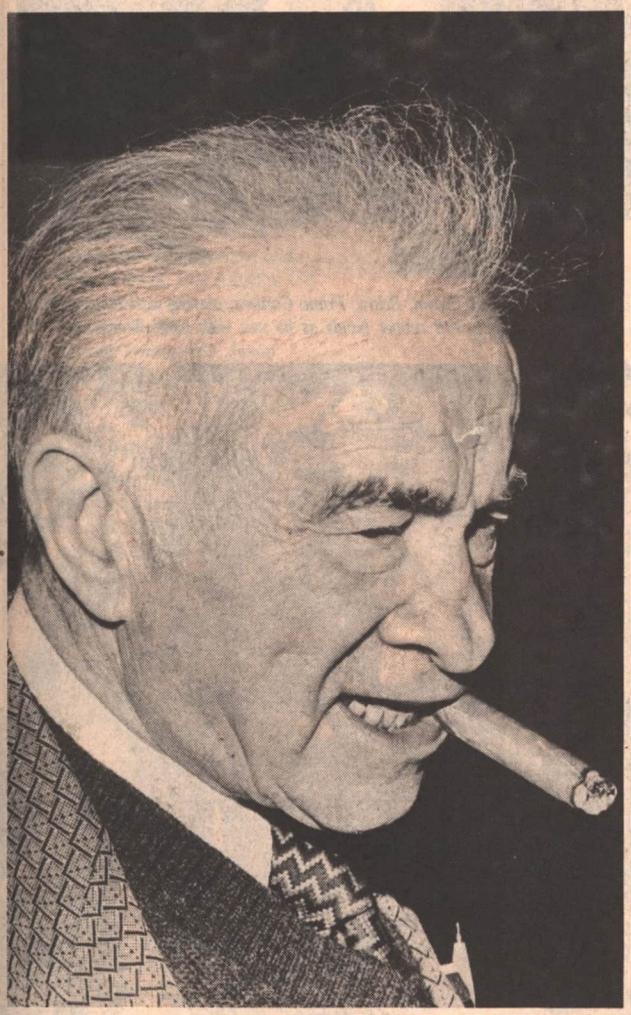
Hornsby's lifetime batting mark was .358, which is a pretty strong argument for the movie house theory. Then again, maybe there wasn't anything playing that Hornsby wanted to see. No, that's hard to believe. Hornsby's career lasted years, and there must have been one Chaplin movie . . .

On second thought, the movie house theory may not have been Hornsby's. Was it Ty Cobb who stayed away because he feared for his eyes? Cobb retired with a lifetime batting average of .367.

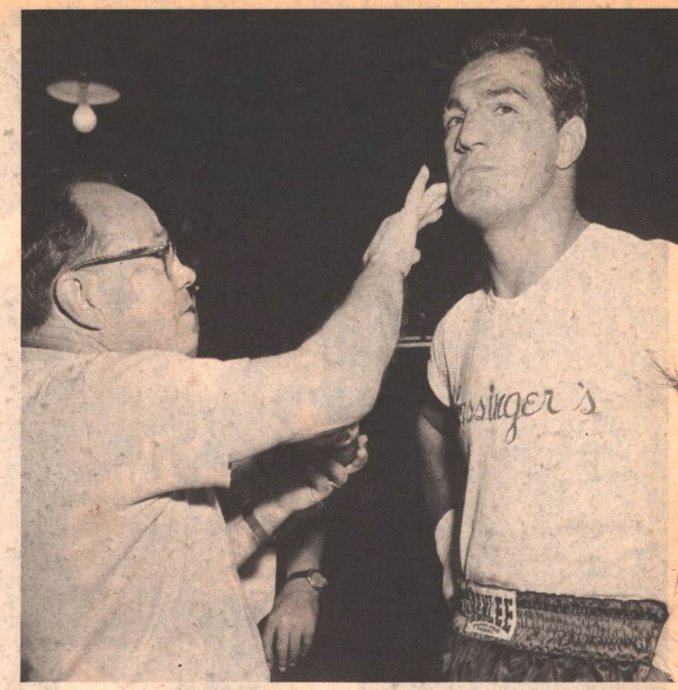
What's that? you say. You want to know what movie theaters have to do with the point of this story? With sex? Well, when I was an usher at the Luxor Theater in the Bronx, there was a small room that was used to store the letters that went on the marquee. Since the room was usually empty, we would occasionally convince . . .

But that is *certainly* another story.

Trainer Freddy Brown is 72 years old. He remembers 1923 as the year he began with boxing. Freddy, who only works the best corners, doesn't question the things he first heard that year. He believes that sex before a fight is harmful to a boxer.



This face tells you that Freddie Brown was from the old school. "Sex takes away your strength," the trainer said. "No sex three, four weeks beforehand."



When trainer Charlie Goldman ran the camp of Rocky Marciano, women were nowhere in sight. "Charley was death on women," recalled Bill Daly.

"Sex isn't good," is how Freddy put it.

Does he really think it's that important to avoid sex?

"Very important," Freddy said. "You got to have your full strength."

I made the usual arguments. That most fighters are young, well-conditioned athletes. Surely, sex a few days before a fight . . .

Freddy interrupted me. "Three, four weeks," he said. "A fighter shouldn't have any sex for three, four weeks before a fight."

Freddy thinks it has something to do with strength. "You got to have your full strength," he said. "Sex takes away your strength."

What about football players, basketball players, I countered. Those guys need all their strength just to carry their little black books.

Freddy was expecting me. "A football player," the trainer said, giving me a sad look, "a football player gets tired, you take him out of the game. You give him a rest. A fighter you can't take out. He's got to be there."

Freddy provided an example: Tony Janiro, the fine middleweight of 30 years ago. "He coulda been a champion," Freddy said. "Sure. Sex. That was the main problem. That's what ruined him. For the first four, five rounds . . . no trouble. For the next four, five . . . no strength."

Freddy's estimate of three to four weeks struck other boxing people as hardly the best way to celibate.

"Three to four days is more like it," said Gil Clancy. "That close to a fight it relieves the tension. But that's it."

Clancy, the Madison Square Garden matchmaker, is a quarter-century younger that Freddy Brown. When Clancy was managing fighters, his orders were tougher.

"For two weeks before a fight, no sex." That's what he says he told his young tigers.

Why did he hit on two weeks?

Above: Tony Janiro (left), pictured kayoing Beau Jack in February 1947, was a fighter ruined by sex, says Freddie Brown. Below: Primo Carnera, playing with Tommy Burns and Willie Ritchie at his training camp in June 1934, never had wet dreams because his trainer was as deft with rubber bands as he was with hand wraps.

"I don't know for sure," Clancy admits. "I don't even know if it can hurt you the night before you fight. It's just better that you don't do it."

How can he be sure?

"I'm not," he said. "I told you I'm not sure. But it's like crossing the street. It's better to do it with your eyes open, right? Maybe you can do it with your eyes closed, but why would you try it?"

Mickey Duff, the British promoter, was listening to Clancy. "What if the fighter had a wet dream?" Clancy asked him. "How could you stop that?"

"It's only natural," Duff said. "What can you do?"

"You could tie a string around him," Clancy suggested.

The string theory isn't as knotty as it seems. Budd Schulberg, when he was researching *The Harder They Fall*, his novel about a heavyweight not unlike Primo Carnera, discovered that Carnera's trainer would make the fighter wear a rubber band around his penis to prevent wet dreams.

When Angelo Dundee heard that, he shot back, "They coulda put eight rubber bands on Carnera and he never would've been no fighter."

The anecdote comes from George Plimpton's *Shadow Box*. Dundee was explaining to the writer, "Maybe you

can fool around just before a fight, but you can't have any misgivings about it. That's what's so great about Ali. He doesn't let anything bother him. A guy like [Willie] Pastrano'll shake his head in the ring and moan about what he's done the night before—kicking himself—but Ali doesn't do that. He has the greatest attitude of any fighter who ever lived."

"Lucky for you, Angelo," Plimpton said. "Otherwise, you'd have to bring out the rubber bands."

The talk about string reminded Duff of Jim Watt, the WBC lightweight champion. Watt was preparing for a fight, going through those last anxious weeks of training.

His manager, Terry Lawless, thought he had spotted a flaw in Watt's footwork. "Jim," he said, "I think your legs are too far apart." He suggested a string to be tied between Watt's legs. "The string would be just a bit longer than how far apart your legs should be. That way," the trainer said, "when you start feeling too much tension on the string, you'll know your legs are too far apart. It'll do you a lot of good."

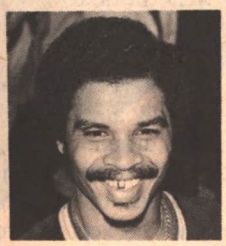
"Terry," said the quick-thinking Watt, "you know what would do me a lot more good? If I could use that string to tie my wife's legs together."

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yester-

THE RING RATINGS, *December 1979*

(As of October 6,1979)

***WBA Champion**
****WBC Champion**



Jorge Lujan

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Title Vacant**

1. **Larry Holmes****, Easton, PA
2. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
3. **John Tate**, Knoxville, TN
4. **Earnie Shavers**, Warren, OH
5. **Mike Weaver**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Leroy Jones**, Denver, CO
7. **Lorenzo Zanon**, Italy
8. **Alfredo Evangelista**, Spain
9. **Scott Ledoux**, Minneapolis, MN
10. **Leon Spinks**, St. Louis, MO

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Victor Galindez***, Argentina

1. **Matthew Saad Muhammad****, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
3. **Alvaro (Yaqui) Lopez**, Stockton, CA
4. **John Conteh**, England
5. **James Scott**, Rahway, NJ
6. **Eddie Gregory**, Brooklyn, NY
7. **Lotte Mwale**, Zambia
8. **Mustapha Wassaja**, Denmark
9. **Mike Rossman**, Turnersville, NJ
10. **Rudi Koopmans**, Holland

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Vito Antuofermo**, Italy

1. **Marvin Hagler**, Brockton, MA
2. **Hugo Corro**, Argentina
3. **Alan Minter**, England
4. **Ronnie Harris**, Akron, OH
5. **Mike Colbert**, Portland, OR
6. **Tony Sibson**, England
7. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
8. **Marcos Geraldo**, Mexico
9. **Georg Steinherr**, Germany
10. **David Love**, San Diego, CA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Masashi Kudo***, Japan

1. **Ayub Kalule**, Uganda
2. **Maurice Hope****, England
3. **Rocky Mosley Jr.**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Frank Wissenbach**, Germany
5. **Rocky Mattioli**, Australia
6. **Tony Chiaverini**, Kansas City, MO
7. **Sandy Torres**, Puerto Rico
8. **Marijan Benes**, Yugoslavia
9. **Gert Steyn**, South Africa
10. **Andoni Amana**, Spain

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Wilfred Benitez****, Puerto Rico

1. **Ray Leonard**, Palmer Park, MD
2. **Jose (Pipino) Cuevas***, Mexico
3. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
4. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
5. **Jorgen Hansen**, Denmark
6. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA
7. **Angel Espada**, Puerto Rico
8. **David Green**, England
9. **Manuel Jiminez**, Puerto Rico
10. **Andy Price**, Los Angeles, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Antonio Cervantes***, Colombia

1. **Jo Kimpuani**, Zaire
2. **Sang Hyun Kim****, South Korea
3. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY
4. **Miguel Montilla**, Dominican Republic
5. **Esteban DeJesus**, Puerto Rico
6. **Lennox Blackmoore**, Guyana
7. **Teo Ozuna**, Dominican Republic
8. **Sean O'Grady**, Oklahoma City, OK
9. **Bruce Curry**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Juan Jose Gimenez**, Spain

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Title Vacant**

1. **Ernesto Espana***, Venezuela
2. **Jim Watt****, Scotland
3. **Claude Noel**, Trinidad
4. **Julio Valdez**, Dominican Republic
5. **Johnny Lira**, Chicago, IL
6. **Howard Davis**, Glen Cove, NY
7. **Jorge Morales**, Puerto Rico
8. **Vilomar Fernandez**, Dominican Republic
9. **Aaron Pryor**, Cincinnati, OH
10. **Hilmer Kenty**, Detroit, MI

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Samuel Serrano***, Puerto Rico

1. **Alexis Arguello****, Nicaragua
2. **Frankie Baltazar**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Bobby Chacon**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Rafael (Bazooka) Limon**, Mexico
5. **Rodolfo Sanchez**, Spain
6. **Victor Echegaray**, Argentina
7. **Greg Coverson**, Columbus, OH
8. **Roberto Elizondo**, Corpus Christi, TX
9. **Arturo Leon**, Tucson, AZ
10. **Carlos Hernandez**, Spain

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Danny Lopez****, Los Angeles, CA

1. **Eusebio Pedroza***, Panama
2. **Ruben Castillo**, Bakersfield, CA
3. **Roberto Castanon**, Spain
4. **Cecilio Lastra**, Spain
5. **Mike Ayala**, San Antonio, TX
6. **Juan Malvarez**, Argentina
7. **Eddie Ndukwu**, Nigeria
8. **Hector Carrasquilla**, Panama
9. **Salvador Sanchez**, Mexico
10. **Nene Jun**, Philippines

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Wilfredo Gomez****, Puerto Rico

1. **Ricardo Cardona***, Colombia
2. **Nicky Perez**, Tucson, AZ
3. **Juan (Kid) Meza**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Jose Caba**, Dominican Republic
5. **Soon Yun Chung**, South Korea
6. **Sergio Palma**, Argentina
7. **Javier Flores**, Salt Lake City, UT
8. **Leo Cruz**, Dominican Republic
9. **Shuchi Isogami**, Japan
10. **Hiroyuki Iwamote**, Japan

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Jorge Lujan***, Panama

1. **Lupe Pintor****, Mexico
2. **Carlos Zarate**, Mexico
3. **Alberto Davila**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Juan F. Rodriguez**, Spain
5. **Roberto Rubaldino**, Mexico
6. **Oscar Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Ricardo Bennett**, Panama
8. **Julian Solis**, Puerto Rico
9. **Andres Hernandez**, Puerto Rico
10. **Juan Alvarez**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Chan Hee Park****, South Korea

1. **Yoko Gushiken**, Japan
2. **Betulio Gonzalez***, Venezuela
3. **Miguel Canto**, Mexico
4. **Guty Espadas**, Mexico
5. **Sung Jun Kim**, South Korea
6. **Charlie Magri**, England
7. **Joey Olivo**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Shoji Oguma**, Japan
9. **Netrnoi Vorasingh**, Thailand
10. **Rey Melendez**, Dominican Republic

While visiting Rome for a bout with Sandro Bettini in 1964, Ray Robinson literally had to fight off the women. Sugar Ray had a reputation as a ladies' man.

year, July 1918. Here's Jack Dempsey knocking out "The Minnesota Plasterer," Fred Fulton, in 18 seconds. Selling programs at that fight was the 16-year-old Bill Daly.

Doc Kearns, according to Daly, took a liking to the young program seller. "He reached for the water bottle and I handed it to him," Daly remembers. "Before long I worked my way up the steps. Kearns says to me, 'Come around tomorrow.' Then he says he has a fight in Chicago and he wants me there with the fighter. I told him, 'Geez, Doc, I'm only 16. My mother won't let me.' So Kearns talked to her. She said I was making $14 a week selling programs, and Kearns said he would give me the same. So that was that. She said okay. I went to Chicago and never looked back.

"Kearns would tell me, make sure you tell these fighters not to fool around for at least a week before a fight. But Kearns, he was the worst. The fighters would always catch Doc, and so he'd have to give in. Naturally, he'd bawl me out. He would wanna know why they was fooling around. And I'd say—what the hell did I know, 16 years old—'Well, it's your fault, Doc. You don't set an example.' "

The world according to Daly is a history lesson that would surprise most boxing fans.

"Everybody tells you Archie Moore and Ray Robinson were such great playboys," Daly says. "Nope, I don't believe it. I bet you the reason they lasted until they were 38 years old was because they didn't fool around.

"The one exception is Ali. He could screw around and still have enough to win. But the time Norton broke his jaw, Ali lost that one because the night before he was laying with two broads, one on each side. Joe Louis, too. That's why he lost to Schmeling. He had two broads before that fight." Daly snapped his fingers, stared at the ceiling. "I can't think of their names. Two new broads."

The first Louis-Schmeling fight is remembered as the one Louis lost because he dropped his left hand and took a terrific beating from Schmeling's right. And here was Daly trying to tell me something else. Did he really believe that "the new broads" were a factor in Louis' loss?

"Not a factor," Daly insisted. "The *main thing*. Louis was a playboy."

Another heavyweight champion drops into the conversation.

"Rocky Marciano, he was different," Daly says. "Never fooled around. That's because his trainer was Charley Goldman, a great teacher. Charley was death on women. No women in the gym, no wives, no nothing! I believe that. I believed in it when I first heard it and I believe it today. They got what you call today the new breed of fighter. They're supposed to fool around and it ain't supposed to affect them. I can believe it. But I'll tell you why. It's because what you got around today, they're not the great fighters."

Chuck Wepner, who stayed in front of Ali for 15 rounds, is another believer. Chuck, by his own admission, is an even more accommodating target outside the ring.

"Not too many fighters partied more than I did," Wepner told me. "I've always had stuff available to me. Always. I probably do better than any fighter in the world. I don't know why, but I get 'em. Movie stars, celebrities, that kind of stuff."

That's Wepner the lover, talking. Wepner the boxer is harder on himself. He says he went at least a week without sex before a fight. And for the title match with Ali, he was chaste for seven weeks.

"That's why I was so tough that night," he says. "Staying away makes you tough, mentally and physically. I heard some fighters say they screw around the night before a fight, all that crap, because it relaxes them. I don't believe that. Against Ali, I wanted to bang him around so bad because he was the guy who kept me from getting laid for seven, eight weeks. That could piss you off at anybody."

Cus D'Amato is one old-timer who doesn't buy the old talk. He would, in fact, tell Wepner that the only person who kept Wepner from scoring was Wepner himself. Cus, you see, has some original ideas.

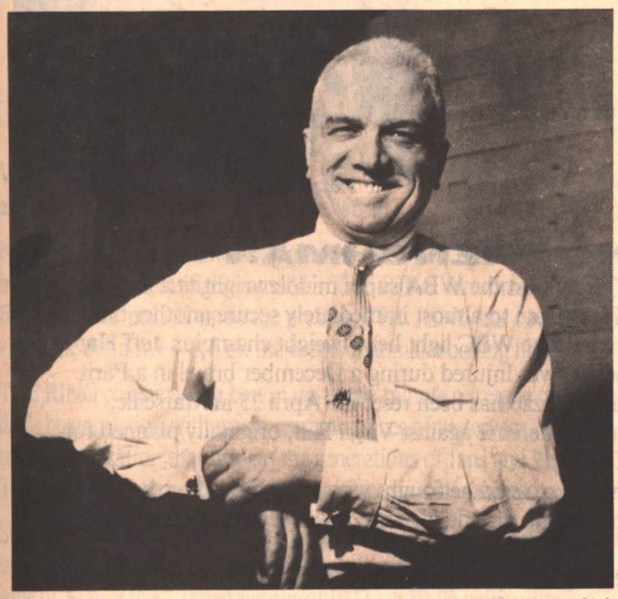
"No one is original," Cus says. "No one really understands. They just pass on the things they've heard. They accept it. I was never one of those."

He talks about "beliefs instilled in the fighter's mind by ignorant trainers and managers." The hysteria about sex, Cus maintains, is one of the worst.

For part of his lengthy reign as middleweight king, the adventuresome Carlos Monzon's entourage included Argentine actress Susanna Gimenez.

"I am not one who accepts the opinions of others without putting it to the test," Cus points out. He had the chance to put his sex theories to test when he trained a succession of deaf-mute fighters.

"Being deaf-mutes," Cus says, "they were completely oblivious to the cock-and-bull stories about sex they might have heard. I believe most fighters have sex, no matter what they say. So why tell them it's going to make them tired? Because all you're doing then is insuring that it's going to make them tired. It's like telling a little kid ice cream is bad for him. If you tell him that from the day he's born, then he won't ever touch ice cream. It's the same with fighters. It's only because a fighter is taught that sex is bad for him that he believes it. He goes into the ring worrying he might get tired. And that's what makes him tired."



Maverick trainer and manager Cus D'Amato prided himself in his ability to think originally. He never told his fighters to abstain from sex before fights.

Cus knows at least one fighter who found a better way: Leach Cross, a New York lightweight who boxed 60 years ago. Leach had told Cus about the time he was training at a farmhouse for a fight the following month. After a week of training, the house burned down and Cross and his group moved to the local inn. Where, as luck would have it, Cross' wife had a room.

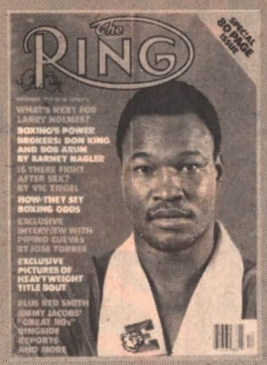
Cross' trainer, who knew all about the birds, the bees, and his boxer, kept Cross in the room farthest from his wife. This worked fine for two or three nights. And then, with Cross going willy-wonka because he knew his wife was in the same building, the fighter decided to pay a 3 a.m. visit on the little woman. This went on almost every night until they broke camp.

Well, Cross won his bout decisively. And when he read the papers the next day, they credited him with one of the most brilliant exhibitions of boxing ever seen in a New York ring.

"After I read that," Cross told Cus, "I didn't have another fight where I didn't sleep with my wife."

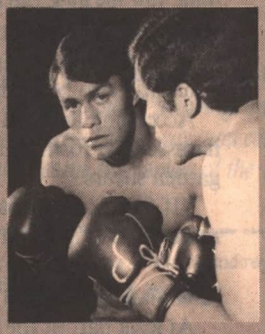
"You may have questions about sexual matters such as nocturnal emissions (also called 'wet dreams') and masturbation. Talk them over with your parents and/or spiritual adviser or doctor. Don't rely on the advice of friends who think they know all the answers."—Boy Scout Handbook. ■

THE RING, December 1979

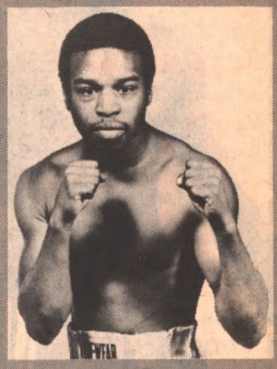


The Cover: Following his off-the-floor victory over Earnie Shavers, unbeaten WBC heavyweight champion Larry Holmes seeks new challenges. "We're not going to run from nobody," says Richie Giachetti. The manager/trainer's words turn out to be true, as Holmes subsequently makes more defenses than any heavyweight titlist since Joe Louis.

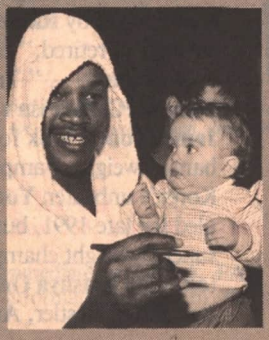
The Chessmasters: Barney Nagler pens "The Power Brokers: Bob Arum And Don King." The promoters are depicted as the most powerful men in boxing. A list of their respective fighters reveals Arum (pictured) to have an edge in numbers. But King, with Larry Holmes and Roberto Duran in his stable, compensates with quality.



Mexican Bonebreaker: Former light heavyweight champion Jose Torres examines WBA welterweight titlist Pipino Cuevas, the quiet assassin with the loud left hook. "In an unscientific poll I took," writes Torres, "seven out of 10 chose Pipino Cuevas as the most consistent champion in the business today."



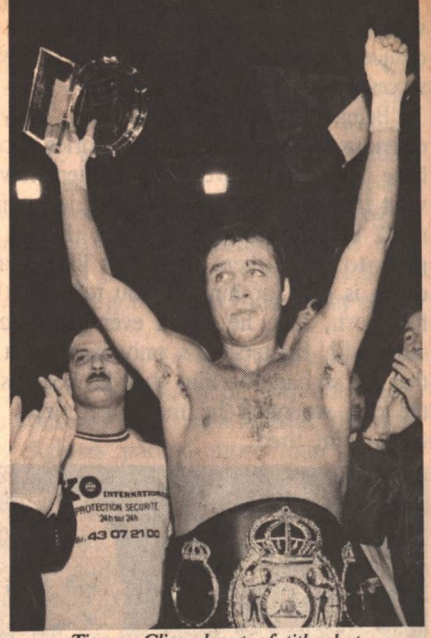
New Faces: Among those featured is a pair of future world champions. Featherweights Rocky Lockridge (pictured) and Juan LaPorte have engaged in only eight and 12 pro bouts, respectively. Both, however, were outstanding amateurs. Lockridge would rebound from a 1981 kayo loss to LaPorte and win the junior lightweight title; LaPorte would become featherweight champion in his third try for the title.



Fighter Of The Month: Larry Holmes (pictured) and Sugar Ray Leonard share the honors. Holmes registered an off-the-floor stoppage victory over powerpunching Earnie Shavers, and Leonard, 25-0 and clearly headed for a world title, kayoed veteran contender Andy Price in one round.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Tiozzo: Clipped out of title shot

THE FIGHTING FRENCHMAN

Given that France's Chris Tiozzo lost the WBA super middleweight title to Victor Cordoba in April, he seemed fortunate to almost immediately secure another title try. Tiozzo was scheduled to challenge WBC light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding, but his luck ran out when he was injured during a December brawl in a Paris restaurant. As a result, Harding-Tiozzo has been reset for April 25 in Marseille, France, and a subsequent Harding defense against Virgil Hill, originally planned for June, will also be pushed back.

According to initial reports, Tiozzo said he fought with eight men after they had harassed the former champion and his girlfriend. Tiozzo was reportedly cut with garden shears.

"If there's a way for something to happen in boxing," said Bill Mordey, the promoter of the fight, "it seems to happen."

McCallum: Wants Toney again

WAITING FOR THE "HIT MAN"

At least part of the boxing universe revolves around Thomas Hearns. The "Hit Man" hasn't hit anyone since capturing the WBA light heavyweight title from Virgil Hill in June. After that victory, it was rumored that he would again rise in weight and challenge WBA cruiserweight champion Bobby Czyz. But Hearns apparently priced himself out of the matchup. Now Czyz is looking to defend against the comebacking Donny Lalonde, possibly in March.

Another champion who wants Hearns is IBF cruiserweight king James Warring. But according to *Boxing News,* Hearns asked for a ridiculous $1.6-million. As a result, Warring is likely to instead take on mandatory challenger Al Cole.

Just whom will Hearns fight? It's been a while since we've heard about a battle with heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield . . .

LISTEN UP

We spoke to **Roger Mayweather** a few days after "The Black Mamba" was brutally kayoed by **Rafael Pineda**. He hedged when asked about his future. "I'm not saying I'm retired," he said. "When I do retire, it'll be for good. If the right fight comes along . . . " Translation: We'll definitely see him back in the ring . . . If **Mike McCallum** isn't able to secure a rematch with IBF middleweight champion **James Toney**, look for him to jump to a more comfortable 168 pounds . . . WBC bantamweight champion **Joichiro Tatsuyoshi** will make his first defense, against Korea's unbeaten **Yong Hoon Lee**, on February 6. The fight was originally scheduled for late-1991, but postponed after the champions suffered an injury . . . WBC super flyweight champion **Sung Kil Moon's** next defense will come against Japan's top-rated **Katsuya Onizuka**, who is managed by, among others, a Japanese movie star and a wrestler, **Antonio Inoki**. ■

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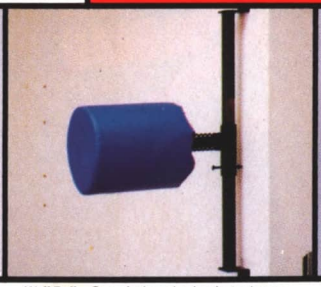

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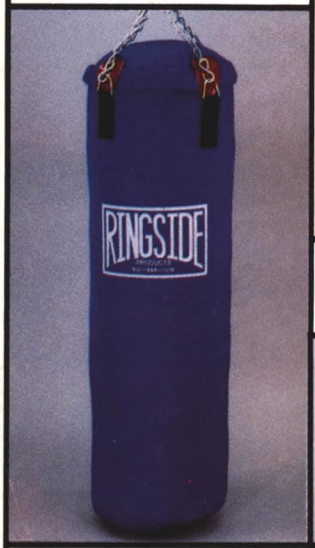

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